

# Histon and Impington Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online  
at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get  
in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central  
Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled  
since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

There is a more complete transcripts of stories relating to Histon and Impington during this period

“Histon & Impington village life from 1875 to 1922: extracts from the Cambridge Independent Press” was compiled and indexed by Harold Peck in 1981. It may be consulted in the Cambridgeshire Collection

### ***Histon and Impington Scrapbook***

1897 04 29

At Cambridge County Court Alfred Whitmee, circus proprietor said he visited Shelford with his circus in the autumn of 1896. On the Monday it was a rough day and he could not get the tent up. The month of October was an unfortunate one for him. He owed 30s.(shillings) at Histon and about 7s at Trumpington. He had arranged to start for Sawston but was told he could not take anything away until £2.0.6 was paid for lodging his horses.

1897 10 06

There has been an epidemic of missing solicitors in Cambridge during the last decade. Now many people in the pretty village of Histon, wherein the Manor Hall, the missing squire's residence, is situate, regard it as a sort of evil dream and they would not be surprised to see him driving up the street as usual. The Squire was last seen driving towards Cambridge on the Monday morning about 10 o'clock. Nothing peculiar in his demeanour was noticed by his neighbours or his own acquaintances; he has of late continued the usual, steady, business-like habits. He was held in high esteem, was Under Sheriff & Deputy Lieutenant of the County and generally regarded as one of the soundest men in the county. Tales are hazarded of enormous sums entrusted to the missing man by companies, colleges and private persons. The only authentic fact is a petition on behalf of a creditor for £4,484.

1898 07 13

Yesterday was the 25th anniversary of the first farm factory in England and to celebrate the occasion a large party of London and Provincial pressmen visited Histon and spent a day in the Chivers factory and fields. We travelled along the Histon Road, with the factory chimney steaming away in the distance yonder, and fruit, interminable lines of it, growing in the fields on both sides. To the right a group of busy pickers could be seen among the strawberries, smiling and happy. We rode past the neat compact cottages of the firm's workpeople, past the factory itself, on through the shady roads, past Impington Church - seeing here and there an old thatched cottage, a striking object lesson when compared with the more modern dwellings for the people erected since the firm began, till we week reached the birthplace of the idea, the barn in which the initial efforts of the firm were made.

1899 03 11

An Italian was charged with riding on the Great Eastern Railway from Wimblington to Histon without having previously paid his fare. James Franklin, a guard, said he saw the prisoner get into the train. At Swavesey station some boys informed him there was a man under the seat in the railway carriage. The man said he had been in the country for six months and had been obtaining his living by playing a concertina, but the instrument had gone wrong, and he had no money to buy a new one. The police-court missionary is looking after the case.

1899 07 04

One of the most popular of village feasts is that of Histon. This feast flourishes with surprising vigour and during its run the proprietors of roundabouts, shooting galleries and cocoanut shies draw no inconsiderable portions of their season's income from the villagers and visitors. The festival takes place on the village green and on Monday evening the usual

holiday crowd amused itself after time-honoured fashion, notwithstanding the full inch of mud to wade through in some places.

1899 07 05

The Great Eastern Railway Company has for many years been engaged in carrying the workpeople of East London to and from their work and Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street stations every morning are thronged with the wage earners of East London. Now within a few miles of Cambridge Messrs Chivers have established a jam factory and in the fruit picking season employ an average of 8,000 people, most drawn from Cambridge. For their benefit the Great Eastern Railway has now provided trains to Histon, morning and night. These are of immense convenience to the fruit pickers and in putting them on the railway company has in promoting its own welfare promoted also that of Cambridge.

1899 11 15

An undergraduate of Caius College was summoned for riding a bicycle on the footpath at Impington. Supt Webb said when asked for his name and address defendant demurred, and then replied "X.Y.Z." He told him he would detain him until he gave him his card and defendant then complied with the request. The reason he had got on to the path was to avoid a young and prancing horse that came along. Fined 1s.

1900 05 16

The evil-disposed person who has been paying nocturnal visits to the railway stations in the neighbourhood of Cambridge with the ostensible object of plundering the booking office, has scarcely been adequately remunerated for his trouble. He was first heard of at Histon station. In the morning the outer and inner doors of the office were still locked, and the windows were intact. The booking clerk was surprised, therefore, to find that the sum of £1.0.4d, the whole of the cash available, was missing. There was nothing to show in what way the thief had entered the premises. Stations at Quy, Bottisham and Barnwell were also visited and entered.

1900 06 16

The Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University has published a letter received from Mr Macfarlane-Grieve of Impington Park. "I have watched the successive efforts of the University to help the teaching of agriculture on an intelligently scientific basis since 1893. It would be a distinction for Cambridge to be the first to found a University School of Agriculture. A Professor of Agriculture without a farm, conducted on both model and experimental lines wherewith to illustrate his teaching, is like a Professor of Chemistry without a laboratory. A farm on this estate will fall vacant at Michaelmas and I am prepared to offer it to the University rent free till 1909". The Senate has accepted the offer with thanks.

1900 06 22

A great scare was created by the news of an explosion at Messrs Chivers' Jam Factory at Histon and great alarm was occasioned by the exaggerated reports. An explosion did actually take place when a pipe leading from the boiler-room burst with a loud report and some slates were blown from the roof. Work was suspended for a time, as the explosion had been heard in every part of the factory. Chivers' factory has been singularly free from accidents & it is eminently satisfactory to find that the ill effects of the explosion were confined to slight damage to apparatus, which can be speedily remedied.

1900 11 10

Lilian Lawrence, a 'Lieutenant' of the Salvation Army, said she was at Histon conducting a service in the Salvation Army Barracks. On account of a great shouting outside she was unable to commence the service. She walked to the door and saw eight or nine boys outside, whom she asked to go away. They did not reply but laughed at her. They were summoned for disturbing a religious service and fined 5s each.

1901 04 14

The Baptist denomination at Histon celebrated the foundation stone laying of the new Sunday School. The old school building has for some time ceased to furnish adequate accommodation for the increasing number of scholars. The classrooms will accommodate about 500 scholars; it will be erected adjoining the chapel and the two buildings will be in architectural conformity. The estimated cost is £2,200 and of this £1,400 has already been promised by Messrs Chivers and Sons.

1901 07 01

Histon's three-day feast opened in damp and unsettled weather. On feast Sunday there was the usual crowd of people parading the streets but it was not until the Monday that the feast proper began in real earnest. Hundreds braved the weather and took part in all the "fun of the fair". Young men and maidens, old men and their wives, rode on Messrs Thurston's every popular "steam" ostriches to the accompaniment of a full-throated steam organ playing all the latest popular airs. They hurled wooden balls at coconuts and entered into the light-hearted amusement until quite a late hour of the night.

1901 10 15

Amongst the reserve men from Histon who went out to South Africa were three brothers – Walter, James and Fred Willson. The former arrived home "fresh from the front" and received a right royal welcome by his family and friends who have been eager to listen to his interesting war tales. His brothers and other comrades are all "fit and well"; one of the Histon boys, Ernest Adams, was a prisoner for some time at Pretoria.

1901 11 19

A spirit of unrest is rife in the parish of Histon. Unfortunately for the work of the church there are two distinct parties, or factions, and as a consequence, any efforts made in connection with the church are seriously hampered. The vicar is endeavouring to introduce ritual into the services; there is a dispute over a certain seat in the chancel, the bellringers and choir have struck and some of the sidesmen have refused to carry the alms-bag. On Sunday a number of worshippers deliberately walked out of church.

1901 12 18

While the Green End residents of Histon were peacefully sleeping, the Church End villagers were rudely awakened from their slumbers by a man shouting "Fire! Fire!! Help! Help!" They found Mr Smith Rowley's farm buildings were issuing volumes of flames to a considerable height above the well-known massive trees in the Manor grounds. Villagers came upon the scene, closely followed by seven or eight county constables who were attracted to the scene by the flames that lit up the sky. Little could be done as the big barn and other buildings were enveloped. Rats by the hundreds ran from the buildings enveloped in flames, presenting a peculiar sight of "balls of fire" hopping over the grass which was white with frost.

1902 02 15

The funeral of the late Mr William Chivers took place at Histon. It had many times been said that he was the best-loved man in the county. In the village signs of mourning were to be seen on every hand; all places of business were closed and at every house blinds were drawn. Most of the inhabitants were attired in black and those that were not so wore some emblem to testify their respect for the deceased. Nearly 2,000 were present either at the graveside or at the Baptist church.

1902 04 18

The Histon and Impington Bicycle Club were "at home" to members of the Cambridge Wanderer's Cycling Club at the Boot Inn, Histon. Every preparation had been made for the comfort of the cyclists & the room presented the gayest aspect, owing to decorations of flags, bunting etc. Mr G.H. Whitehead of the "Senior Wrangler" Bicycle Firm, Cottenham and Mr

George Tolliday of the “George” Cycle Works Histon were amongst those present. A capital programme of music was gone through including ‘Goodbye, Dolly Gray’ and the comic song “Cheer up, you’ll soon be dead”

1902 08 26

Mr W. Saunders, the veteran captain of Histon and Landbeach Cricket Club has been aptly dubbed the local “W.G.” [Grace] – not because of any physical similarity – his spare even youthful-looking frame cannot compare with the great girth of the one and only Doctor – but because both have long and honourable records in the game. He has been actively engaged in cricket for no less a period than 48 years. His career commenced in 1854. Later he and his three brothers took a prominent part in forming a club at Impington & he finally settled at Histon about 1884

1902 12 16

The landlord of the Boot Inn, Histon had the very nasty experience of being tossed by an infuriated bullock at Cambridge Cattle Market. The animal, a Scottish beast with very long horns, was being driven into a pen when it broke away, caught Mr Vialls with its horns and threw him over the rails into one of the pens. The horns penetrated his trousers and made a scratch about seven inches long. The wild beast was eventually safely secured and sold to Mr Mills of Cambridge without being brought into the auction ring.

1903 04 25

The landlord of the Boot Inn, Histon, was summoned for allowing gaming on his premises. PC Plowman said the billiard room door was closed and he heard rattle of money. There were 18 men in the room and they were playing halfpenny pool. Defendant said: “I never saw this game before and if I have done wrong I will bury the balls. I did not know that pool was wrong, as we always played it at Cottenham”. Pool was played with different balls and so much a ball was paid for the use of the table. There was no evidence they were playing for money. The case was dismissed.

1903 06 05

Like the farmer the fruit-grower may now and again be permitted a grumble. This year the crop promises to be one of the poorest within the recollection of living man. At Histon hundreds of the inhabitants of this quiet village find lucrative and healthful employment picking – or ‘pulling’ fruit and the failure of the crop is a matter of import. The consumer too will have reason to complain when he has to pay a greatly increased price for his favourite brand of apple, when he may long in vain for pears and only catch an occasional glimpse of plums. There is one consolation; strawberries may be plentiful and perhaps cheap

1903 07 21

Since the outbreak of smallpox in Cambridge was official announced there has been a large increase in the number of cases reported. Unfortunately the infection has spread to surrounding villages and a case has broken out at Histon. This has resulted in the abandonment of the Histon Show and Sports, the Waterbeach Show has been postponed, the Promenade Concert on Christ’s Pieces cancelled, schools have been closed and the Barnwell Theatre Mission have suspended operations. Wherever crowds assemble in a town where smallpox is prevalent there is danger of infection.

1903 10 09

One hears of many curious accidents to cyclists but one which befell a Histon cyclist near Cottenham was quite unique. A cat became entangled between the spokes and the fork of the front wheel of his machine and was so badly injured that it died. Usually cats manage to steer wonderfully clear of machines but this unfortunate feline must have dashed right into the cyclist’s front wheel

1904 03 12

Magistrates refused to licence the Walnut Tree off-beerhouse, Impington. The house had four rooms, was thatched and in an extremely damp condition with fungus on the inside wall of the sitting room. It was not fit for habitation and even if it were properly made watertight it would not be of the annual value of £8 as required by law. A four-roomed cottage at Impington would be rented at no more than £4 a year as a private house. But no accommodation was required inside the house for drinking purposes. Negotiations had been in progress for the sale of the house, which is why no repairs had been done.

1904 04 02

Messrs Chivers propose to erect a number of model cottages for the accommodation of their workpeople. At present many of the employees live in adjoining villages and are compelled to walk to the factory each day, while others are conveyed to and from Cambridge by train. The scheme has already started; not far from the village chapel there are four cottages which occupy little more space than the ordinary dreary erection in which the working man has to make his home. But brains as well as bricks and mortar have been used in their construction. They are really miniature villas with windows of the old-fashioned lattice type and are approached through rustic gates. If the new houses are on the same scale many will cast envious eyes at Histon and its happy inhabitants

1904 08 06

The current issue of the 'Strand Magazine' possesses a special interest for Cambridge people since the town has furnished Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with material for his latest Sherlock Holmes story, The Missing Three-quarter. It concerns the disappearance of a member of the Cambridge University rugger team on the eve of the annual match against Oxford. Holmes is supposed to visit Cambridge, residing in an inn next to a bicycle shop; he explores Histon, Oakington and Waterbeach before the final scene of the story is set in a lonely cottage in a field near Trumpington.

1904 10 04

A disastrous fire occurred at Histon when the Green Hill public house was totally destroyed. It was a quaint old house with a thatched roof and was occupied by Albert Gawthrop who also carries on the business of a grocer and baker. One room of the house had been converted into a grocer's shop, while a bakehouse was in the rear. The fire was caused by a spark from a neighbouring chimney being blown on to the roof. A number of employees of Messrs Chivers were sent to assist together with a vanload of buckets. They did excellent work until the arrival of the Chesterton Fire Brigade. All that remains is a heap of ruins with the chimney rising from the centre.

1905 09 27

Mr S.W. Lack, the Histon cyclist has just completed another season during which his successes have firmly established him in the front rank of cyclist athletes. Since he began racing five years ago he has won prizes worth more than £2,000 which are now on display at Joshua Taylor's. They include the Ely Challenge Cup which he won outright in 1903, despite fierce competition from London cyclists. They have all been won on a 'New Chesterton' manufactured by W.J. Ison of Cambridge. 05 09 27a & b

1906 04 23

Histon Salvation Army opened its new hall. For the last three years they have been without a meeting place but a site becoming vacant in a prominent position near the village green, great endeavours were made to obtain it. The small but convenient hall was built by those the Army had rescued at Hansbury Street Shelter and presents a neat and attractive appearance. 06 04 23b

1906 06 06

Mr W. Saunders of Histon has had a remarkable cricketing career over the last 52 years. He learned to play on Parker's Piece and formed a club at Impington until its field was sold. In the 1860s Cambridgeshire occupied the premier position in county cricket and he was numbered amongst some of the finest players in the country being chosen to play against the first All England eleven to visit Australia. 06 06 16b

1906 06 27

Sid Lack of Histon, whose exploits on the cycle track are famous, has left Cambridge for America. Mr Lack, who filled the position of second engineer at Chiver's factory, aims at finding more scope in his vocation and for a time will be engaged in a motor car business at Boston. He has at present no intention of taking up racing over there. 06 04 27

1906 06 30

Cambridge received a full share of the extraordinary deluge that washed the country like a cataract. Eaden Lilley's basement was flooded, the goods soaked and needed quick disposal. A CDN representative visited market gardeners expecting to find them bemoaning extensive damage, but they delivered ecstatic paeans of joy: "We were smothered with fly and red spider on the gooseberries, but the rain has entirely washed them away", said Robert Franks of Histon. 06 06 30b

1906 07 03

The three-day Histon feast was the largest on record, consisting of Messrs Thurston's ever-popular racing motor cars and their new Royal electric cinematograph exhibition, Mander's menagerie and an unusual number of bottle and egg shooting saloons, strength testers, 'Aunt Sallies', cocoanut bowling alleys and other amusements. In the village Post Office the operator has been kept busy writing letters and sending off telegrams for the fair folk, many of whom cannot write. 06 07 03b

1906 09 29

Sid Lack, the famous Histon cyclist, has found that the American climate did not suit him and returned to Histon. But since losing his status as an amateur he has an inclination to go abroad. Now the whole of his household effects have been put under the hammer including his two racing machines, and he has set sail for Australia. If he takes up racing 'down under' his career will be watched with interest. 06 09 29

1907 06 25

Ripe with age and active up to the last in the pursuance of his business and religious duties, Mr Stephen Chivers, of Histon, the founder of the great jam-making firm, passed away suddenly in his 84<sup>th</sup> year. On Sunday evening he preached in Landbeach Baptist Church where he delivered an earnest discourse on the subject of prayer. Afterwards he complained of something being amiss with his throat. On Monday morning he "went home to God" 07 06 25 & 25a

1907 10 03

A tiny bedroom in a cottage occupied by an agricultural labourer was turned into a courtroom when magistrates investigated a fracas between two old Impington men resulting in one, aged over 90, being severely injured. The room is pleasantly situated looking out upon garden grounds and while the wheels of justice were grinding slowly inside, the noisier machinery incidental to threshing operations was in motion outside. Grey-bearded, bald-headed, round-shouldered and tremulous with age, the 73-year-old accused seemed quite incapable of committing a savage assault. 07 10 03



1907 12 21

The Histon P.S.A. string band has been in existence 12 years. It is composed of Histonians only, and amateurs at that, but under the baton of Mr F. Frohock they have gained much success. Concert giving is however only a secondary object, the primary one being that of helping the Rev R. Smith with his men's meetings, when they give selections such as the 'Hallelujah Chorus in a masterly style 07 12 21

1907 12 27

Upon Christmas Eve an inquiry was held into the sad circumstances of the death of an engine driver in the employ of the Midland Railway Company. A family man who lived at Kettering, he was instantaneously killed by a passing train at Histon Station as he was about to be relieved from duty. About half the train passed over the body and his scalp was cut clean off 07 12 27a

1908 01 03

John Tolliday has resigned his letter-carrying duties after 50 years as chief postman at Histon and no-one will begrudge him his well-earned rest after so many years of faithful service. When he first took over he had 40 letters to deliver on an ordinary day. Now the daily delivery averages close upon 500. But he is not resigning from the office of sub postmaster and villagers hope he will be spared many years to discharge his duties. 08 01 03a

1908 07 10

Histon's three days' Feast included Thurston's new Royal show of animated pictures and their steam racing motor cars. Two other roundabouts of a less pretentious order claimed full attention from the youngsters as did an unusual number of bottle and egg and rifle shooting saloons, strength-testers, 'Aunt Sallies' and cocoa-nut shies. Then there were ice-cream, confetti, rock (Histon all through) and fish stalls by the score as well as a Temperance tent where light refreshment was obtained at reduced prices. CWN 08 07 10

1908 12 11

It is many decades since the south face of the church clock at Histon was painted or even washed. Some say the dial has not been washed since the flood of 1879 but others think it has been gilded more recently. But at present the figures are practically erased whereas they used to be discernible from Park Lane. Some face paints easily wash off but hopefully the next renovator will use a better paint and gilt. CWN 08 12 11

1909 01 01

"Where is the snow plough" was the question asked by several people in Histon when about half-a-foot of snow was allowed to lie in the main streets, greatly to the discomfort of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Some say that the snow plough has not yet returned from its Christmas holidays, others say that it still lies where it was left on Eastern Monday, when it was last used. CWN 09 01 01

1909 01 08

Pension day in villages – Cottenham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Histon, Over, Stretham, Isleham, Haddenham, Longstanton – 09 01 08

1909 11 26

There had been a serious outbreak of diphtheria at Stapleford resulting in two deaths. The Sanitary Inspector has secured permission to use an old school for an Isolation Hospital and to move the nurses and the children there. Bedding had been secured from the Oakington Isolation Hospital but there were still one or two items of furniture needed. He could not use the Histon Isolation Hospital because there were so many cases of scarlet fever there and it would be impossible to allot separate wards for each disease CWN 09 11 26

1910 02 04

Since the Ortona Bus Company was established in Cambridge they have done much towards linking up the station and the town with outlying suburbs. A few weeks ago they commenced a service of motor 'buses to Trumpington, Shelford and Sawston and have now inaugurated another to Histon and Cottenham which has been well patronised by passengers 10 02 04m

1910 05 06

Under the new Midwives Act no woman can habitually attend women in childbirth unless she is certified. There were 54 midwives on the register of whom 30 were trained. Ten of the untrained women were between the ages of 65-75 and might need replacing before long by reason of death or infirmity. There was only one trained midwife at Willingham and an untrained woman at Landbeach. There were none at Isleham, Burwell, Wicken, Upware, Milton, Cottenham, Swavesey or Histon. Some mothers can afford the fee of a medical practitioner but are unable also to pay the full fee of a skilled nurse and so may turn to unregistered women 10 05 06b & c

1910 07 08

Histon Feast, the largest in the county, began on Monday for three days. Thurston's Royal Show and steam motors did the lion's share of the business although the various hoop-la stalls, rifle-shooting saloons and a couple of small roundabouts came in for much attention as did the 'Live Teddy Bear' cave. Plenty of patrons congregated round a cheap jewellery auctioneer who was kept busy knocking down bargains to villagers. The scene was an animated one until close upon midnight – 10 07 08cc

1910 08 19

Henry and William Thurston, roundabout proprietors, were summoned for not having a supply of proper appliances at a cinematograph exhibition. Supt Lander said there were between 3,000 and 4,000 people at Histon Show. Messrs Thurston had a show there, which he visited. The machine was enclosed but the fire buckets were outside the tent, telescoped. Thurston's manager said they had hardly had time to put the fire appliances in the tent before the first show. It was a serious case and the public must be protected. They were fined £10 10 08 19a # c.76.9

1910 11 18

The rising ground near Histon Station was the scene of operations by the C.U.O.T.C. It included an advance across country by the infantry battalion on a position near the windmill where a very strong gun emplacement had been constructed complete with communications trenches. The attackers crept cautiously to within 50 yards of the position without a sound being heard, then swarmed over the breastworks. A dummy gun was blown up with a thunderous boom which rolled away over the countryside. 10 11 18 & a.

1911 02 24

A nasty accident took place in Histon High Street on Sunday evening. After church two elderly ladies walking in opposite directions collided in the darkness. The elder, who is over 80, was knocked down and broke a bone in her thigh. To an old lady such an accident is a serious matter. In a properly lighted streets such things would never occur and the moral that it points out to the ratepayers is obvious 11 02 24f

1911 03 17

Public house licences: Willingham 'Rose & Crown' \*& 'Black Lion', Swavesey 'Little Watch' & 'Black Horse', Dry Drayton 'Prince of Wales', Waterbeach 'Wheatsheaf', Impington 'Chequers', Cottenham 'Turks Head' – 11 03 17c & d

1911 03 24

Histon Troop of Peace Scouts was inspected by Sir Francis Vane, President of the British Boy Scouts who said the Histon Troop was not only the First of All in England, but the First of All in the world (great applause). War is an awful thing and the Peace Scouts were an order whose role was to rescue and save, not destroy. Their ambulance work was performed with enthusiasm, the Morse signalling was good and the Swedish drill excellent. But they should be given training in Fire Brigade work so they could assist in passing buckets of water in an emergency. 11 03 24e

1911 06 02

Histon Peace Scouts inspected by Vane – 11 06 02b

1911 07 14

No outing has ever been more enjoyed by the 152 people from Histon who attended the Croxton Park Garden Party. The sight on the St Neots Road will not be forgotten for many years. The road was one continuous stream of char-a-bancs, brakes, 'buses, waggonettes, farm wagons, traps, landaus, taxis and motors. Even a traction engine was bravely wending its way drawing behind it three gaily-decorated farm wagons all heavily laden with a merry party 11 07 14e

1911 07 14

The Crystal Palace pub in Mill Road Cambridge was difficult to supervise, police reported. The only way to get to the back was down a narrow passage at the side, the door of which was always locked. The Bell in Northampton Street was in bad repair with terrible accommodation, the house was damp and the only cooking facilities were in an underground kitchen. The landlady of the Chequers Impington said it was the only place to get a good glass of beer and if it closed many a man would become a teetotaller. The Gravel Diggers was right down in Cottenham fen but there was a considerable amount of labour at certain seasons. The tenant had held the licence for 30 years. It was renewed 11 07 14 # c.27.4 also Priors Tap, Melbourn White Horse, Guilden Morden Black Swan, Dry Drayton Prince of Wales, Swavesey Middle Watch & Black Horse, Soham Black Horse

1911 08 04

Histon sweet peas – 11 08 04b

1911 08 25

There was considerable excitement near Histon railway station on Wednesday evening when the Army monoplane which has been manoeuvring in the district was seen flying towards the village. Not being at a great altitude, the queer-looking machine was seen quite plainly and the public had a good view of it as it hovered towards Dry Drayton before finally alighted at the military manoeuvres camp at Hardwick 11 08 25g

1911 12 08

The Cambridge Chapter of the Order of World Scouts was inaugurated in St Giles church. It is intended to bind Scoutmasters and officers more closely together in their great work and ensure good men for the positions. Every member swears solemnly to obey the Scout Law. The Histon Troop of the British Boy Scouts was present as were a patrol of the Cambridge B-P Scouts. The order was inaugurated in the Chapel Royal Savoy by the Grand Scoutmaster, Sir Francis Vane when the Cambridge British Boy Scouts were represented. 11 12 08

1911 12 22

William Macfarlane-Grieve of Impington Park sued the Great Eastern Railway over trees and shrubs which were destroyed by fire caused by sparks or cinders from locomotive engines used on the railway at Histon. During the abnormally dry season the plantations had been set alight eight or nine times. He had seen a train pulled by a red Midland engine, number 134.

Directly it passed a fire broke out and he'd picked up cinders from the engine. He was awarded damages. It was the first action under the Railway Fires Act passed in 1905. 11 12 22b

1911 12 29

Serious accident to Sidney Gandy, formerly of Histon and now a well-known Society entertainer – 11 12 29d

1912 02 16

Sidney Gandy was one of the ablest of our society entertainers. As a ventriloquist he had few equals and his skill in thought-reading was exceptional. He had been a keen sportsman, organist, choirmaster and schoolteacher at Histon before leaving in 1887 to take up the professional life. Strange to relate the directors of the Histon Institute wrote to engage Mr Gandy for their forthcoming annual entertainment on the very day he met with his accident – 12 02 16d

1912 02 23

About 150 Boy Scouts took part in a convoy scheme at Histon. The idea was that a Blue Force, about 40 in number, was besieged in Histon village by a Red Force of over 60 Scouts, while a Blue relief column from Cambridge, some 40 strong, divided into two parts, each with a trek-cart, endeavoured to relieve them. The relief party, under Scoutmaster Curzon, advanced via Milton but met with serious opposition at Impington. A detachment of the Red Force was sent to hold the level crossing on the Histon-Girton Road but was ambushed. After the 'Cease Fire' the scouts had tea at Histon Institute 12 02 23h

1912 03 08

Members of the University Officers' Training Corp together with the Leys, Perse and County School O.T.C. took part in night operations with the Honorary Artillery Company from London. A brisk engagement in the vicinity of Arbury Camp culminated in the capture and blowing-up of a gun posted at the windmill near Histon station. The night was not favourable for a surprise attack, the moon was shining brightly and the defenders opened fire. Soon a brisk musketry duel was in progress. 12 03 08b

1912 04 05

Histon – Harry Ward emigrates Canada – 12 04 05e

1912 04 19

The eclipse of the sun will be long remembered by school children at Histon. Every child seemed to be carrying a piece of candle-smoked glass and was busy sun-gazing. One old lady retired to bed during the semi-darkness. Upon being told it was only 2 o'clock she could not believe it, saying her hens had gone to roost and she always went to bed when they perched for the night. The strangeness of the phenomenon had evidently deceived the old lady's hens as well as herself 12 04 19h

1912 05 03

Impington school want to collect on May Day for a picture – 12 05 03g

1912 06 21

Histon Chequers inn, now unlicensed, sold by auction 12 06 21c

1912 07 12

Impington Feast – solitary stall – 12 07 12k

1912 07 19

Histon railway station improvements – 12 07 19k

1912 08 30

Floods Swavesey, Cottenham, Royston, Melbourn, Arrington, Histon, St Ives – 12 08 30h

1912 09 13

Sir - Cambridge fruit costs more on Cambridge market than in London since most cannot be sold locally at any price and is sent to larger towns. Good apples were sent from Histon to Manchester that were sold for a shilling per half bushel. Expenses consumed 10d and the grower got only 2d. But in his own market the grower tries to sell at remunerative prices. The only people who can sell cheaper than market traders are the hawkers. There are dozens of large lorries that hawk all over Cambridge and pay not one penny towards the expenses of the town. Yet market stallholders have to pay a very heavy toll – John Hall 12 09 13f

Swaffham Bulbeck see plane, troops based on the Green, Histon – 12 09 20o

1912 10 04

An inquest into the death of the licensee of the Boot Inn, Histon, heard that it was his custom to wash at the water tub which stood in the yard. He went out, as usual, about 6.30am but when he did not come for breakfast his wife looked out of the bedroom window and saw him in the tub. A box that he used to stand on upset and he had apparently slipped and pitched in. It was half-full and he could not have got out by himself. Death was due to apoplexy but falling into the tub produced drowning and accelerated death. The jury passed a vote of sympathy to the widow and her family 12 10 04g

1912 10 25

Histon needs street lights; Swavesey church new stove – 12 10 25e

1912 11 08

Histon bonfire night – 12 11 08g

1913 01 13

Histon Christmas business at post office – 2,000 letters received

1913 01 24

Histon and Impington Bicycle Club has finished after an existence of 20 years, Histon schools to open \*

1913 01 31

Histon school opening, - history of the school

1913 02 14

Histon old school sale

1913 03 28

Histon school garden

1913 04 18

Histon March's charity

1914 01 02

A Hearty Welcome to 1914.—The Bellringers at the Parish Church of St. Andrew at Histon tolled out the passing of 1913, and heartily welcomed in 1914 with a merry peal. The year 1913, has, to say the least, been an unlucky year for many families, and it is to be hoped that the year we have just entered upon will bring in its train a better state 'of affairs. The figures "13" are considered to be unlucky numbers, but so far as the Histon Show and Sports Society

is concerned, the members have cause to flout this idea, as they set up a big record in their "gate" of over £150 in the "unlucky" year. 14 01 02

1914 02 27

Cup Victory.—Histon footballers attained one of the goals of their ambition on Saturday last, when, for the first time in its history, the Cambs. Junior Cup found its way to Histon. The village was almost deserted on Saturday afternoon, practically the whole population having gone to see the 'Stutes win the Cup, which they did by defeating St. Matthew's by the odd goal in three. Great excitement prevailed in the village on Saturday evening, and the players, who journeyed home by the seven o'clock train, were given an enthusiastic reception. The cup was taken in the midst of a cheering throng to the headquarters of the club, stops being made on the way at the residences of vice-presidents where short speeches were given. During the evening a number of supporters of the club, in which the juvenile element was very prominent, procured some oil, and a bonfire was lit on the green to celebrate the event. Now it is all over and the Cup rests quietly in the Institute, everyone is looking forward to the semi-final and final of the Chatteris Cup, which, it is hoped, will remain in Histon. 1914 02 27 CIPof

1914 03 27

Stallion Show. — The annual stallion show in connection with Cambs and Isle of Ely Agricultural Society was held in the Mews, Ely, yesterday. Entries were about the same as last year and the gate was a record one. The popular President of the Society (Mr. J. C. Denison-Pender, M.P.) attended and entertained officials to lunch at the Bell Hotel. The show compared very favourably with that last year as regards the quality of the horses. The Challenge Cup for the best stallion in the show was awarded to Messrs. Chivers and Son, of Histon, with "Sreeby Victor," and Mr. W. C. Enson's "Borough Forest Prince" (Saffron Walden) secured the reserve card - 1914 03 27 CIPof

1914 04 03

Personal. Congratulations to Mr, Arthur Wilson, locally known as "Rugger," one of the Histon sharpshooters, who has been picked to represent Cambridgeshire against Suffolk at Newmarket, this being the first time a Histon footballer has been asked to play for his County. - 1914 04 03 CIPof

1914 05 15

A pair of little brown owls have laid their eggs in the furnace of a portable boiler used for washing beehives on Chivers farm at Histon. Of course the fire has not been lighted recently but the copper is used every day, and when the owls are at home they do not mind this at all. They find their way in and out by the small iron chimney attached to the copper. These owls are not indigenous: Lord Lilford brought a pair from Spain and kept them in captivity near Thrapston. They thrived and he turned them into the open. They have multiplied and are now fairly common 14 05 15a

1914 05 15

Owls' Strange Home. A pair of little brown owls have made their home in a remarkable place on one of the farms of Messrs. Chivers and Sons, Histon. They have laid their eggs in the furnace of a portable boiler used for washing beehives, and their larder is well-stocked. Of course, the fire has not been lit recently, but the copper is used every day, and when the owls are at home they do not mind this at all. They find their way in and out of their home by means of the small iron chimney attached to the copper. Nature lovers are intensely interested in this species of owl as it is not indigenous to Great Britain. - 1914 05 15 CIPof

1914 07 03

Lightning strikes houses Histon, St Ives, Kingston, Toft, Comberton, Wimpole, Elsworth

1914 07 10

Histon feast: Police banned the abominable water squirt with which young ladies attracted the attention of the lads. But there was no lack of frivolity, the paper reported with gay 'flappers' greatly assisting the merriment. Who minded a tickle under the chin with a feather or a handful of confetti in one's face when it came from a pretty young Miss? Thurston's 'switch-back railway' and 'jolly joy wheel' were on the green together with photographers and artists supplying pencil portraits. Every merchant seemed to be doing a big business. 14 07 10 & p4

1914 07 24

Histon show

1914 07 31

Histon aeroplane seen

Histon rail crossing repaired, footbridge wanted

1914 07 31

One corner of Histon green has been cultivated by residents living opposite for a good many years. But now the council has purchased the manorial rights they are anxious to have all their property and asked tenants what rights they had to use it. Now a board has been erected saying 'for sale as a building site'. But as it is so near the brook such development is ridiculous.

1914 07 31

The first batch of imported labourers left Cambridge when eight men travelled to Walter Price's farm at Rylands, Steeple Bumpstead. The news soon spread and the premises became the centre of demonstration by striking farm labourers. The occupation of a tenement near the estate was resented and the tiles and windows were smashed. The demonstrations continued next day, the strikers booing and shouting outside the gates which were guarded by police 14 07 31

1914 07 31

Friendly Society Worker. Of the many Friendly Society stalwarts in Cambridgeshire, few are held in higher esteem than Mr. J. M. Taylor, of Histon, Past Patriarch, etc., of the Sons of Temperance Friendly Society. It can be said of Bro. Taylor more, perhaps, than of most friendly society men, that he is a born organiser. Few are more gifted in this respect, and the growth of the S.O.T. Order throughout the Country can be traced largely to his unbounded enthusiasm and keenness in spreading the friendly society gospel and to his great interest in the temperance cause. Thoroughness characterises his work, for he believes firmly in the old adage that what is worth doing is worth doing well. He is a native of Camberwell.- 1914 07 31 CIPof

1914 08 14

Histon women working party wounded

1914 08 14

Rumours of the presence of spies have been circulating during the last few days. At Warboys the telegraph wire which rings the signal bell at the station on the Somersham to Ramsey branch line was cut during the night and another partially severed. Two foreign gentlemen were seen by Mr W.J. Unwin acting in a suspicious manner at Histon. He followed them to Girton and at each of the three bridges they stopped and examined them. At Girton he phoned the police and a constable was sent out. The men were requested to go to the police station which they did without demure and after questioning were liberated at once. Meanwhile police have been issued with rifles 14 08 14

1914 08 14

Red Cross hospitals have been equipped throughout the county. At Cottenham 40 beds are ready at one hour's notice, 25 are ready for wounded at Histon Council School, Oakington has 15. At Waterbeach the Baptist Sunday Schoolroom is equipped as a hospital with nurses in uniform presenting a neat appearance. At Newmarket thirty beds are fitted in the King Edward VII Memorial Hall. Should 100 wounded men be sent further beds will be fitted in the Astley Institute, Town Hall and Technical Institute. 14 08 14 p8

1914 08 21

Busy Histon Factory. A brisk time is being experienced at the Histon factory of Messrs Chivers and Sons, jam and preserve manufacturers, and the greater number of employees who were recently temporarily suspended have been re-engaged in order to cope with demands which have been made on the factory. The sudden mobilisation of the British Army has resulted in an enormous increase of business to the large firms who manufacture and deal in food products. It is almost impossible for the general public to realise what the feeding and equipment of a great army really involves, but the resources of reputable firms throughout the country are being taxed to the full in order to fulfil the large contracts which are being given out. Fortunately a large share of this business is being participated in locally, Messrs. Chivers having received some substantial Army contracts for jams. In order to execute these orders and to meet the increase of general business which has resulted from the declaration of war, Messrs. Chivers' factory at Histon is working at high pressure, thus giving beneficial employment to a large amount of Cambridge labour which would otherwise have been idle. – 1914 08 21 CIPof

1914 08 21

Doing its Share. Histon is doing and evidently means to do its share of the work entailed by the war. Red Cross meetings are frequently taking place for the purpose of stretcher drills, bandaging, etc., and a great deal of interest is being taken in the work. The United Ladies Working Party met in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Monday for the first time whilst the Boys' Brigade are collecting money for the purchase of material to make garments for the wounded. In addition to this, Messrs Chivers have contributed the magnificent sum of 250 gns to the Prince of Wales' Fund. – 1914 08 21 CIPof

1914 08 28

Patriotic Cambridge has furnished a squadron of Yeomanry and 129 recruits for Lord Kitchener's Second Army. Many firms are making provision for wives and families left behind, supplementing the men's army wages. The University Press has sent 61 men, the Gas Company 35, Eaden Lilley 18 and William Saint the builder 17. (The paper lists the names of the men). Several men have left Sawston and at Reach Jack Ridgell offered his services but was not accepted, he being just over the age limit of 42 years. But at Linton men were asked not to join up until the harvest has been gathered in. Also Fulbourn, Histon, Fen Drayton,

1914 08 28

Obituary. We regret to announce the death of Mr, Charles Carter, which took place at his (Histon) home on Saturday morning. Deceased had not been in the best state of health for a considerable time, but the end came suddenly. Mr. Carter was well-known in the village and also in Cambridge, having until recently, carried on the business of market gardening. He was undoubtedly one of the best draught players in the district, having been champion of Histon Institute several times. Mr. Carter leaves a widow and small family, for whom much sympathy is felt. The interment took place at the cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, a large number being present at the graveside. – 1914 08 28 CIPof

1914 09 04

Already nine promising and stalwart lads from Histon have left good situations and enlisted. They include George Oakman and Arthur Pettit (former members of the Impington Boy's



brigade) the brothers Wilfred and Albert Biggs, two 'crack' members of the 'Stutes' Football Club and Travers Brett (the local bicycle champion). Charles Unwin and Stan Moore of the V.A.D. have volunteered for ambulance work at the front. In all there are 33 serving with the colours from this neighbourhood.

1914 09 11

Histon Footballers for the Front. The war is affecting Histon very considerably. The Red Cross Society, which, now numbers over 30 members, is still enthusiastically carrying on the stretcher, drill etc practices being held three or four times a week. During the past week, several more young men have left to join the Forces, among them being "Rugger" Wilson, Bandmaster of the 1st Histon and Impington Company of the Boys' Brigade. Others who have left are W. Dawson, the 'Stutes' Reserves' centre-half and formerly of the Boys' Brigade, and Messrs. S. Peck and S. Foster, who are also old Boys Brigade members. – 1914 09 11 CIPof

1914 09 18

The proprietor of the Old Castle Inn, Cambridge, said he supplied horses to the army; he had sold all his animals and visited Histon men seeking more. He'd told them the army wanted the horses and would take them; they would pay less than he offered and they'd have to wait for the money. He made it clear he was buying to sell again and wanted to make a bit of profit. But the farmer got the impression he was buying on behalf of the Government and complained to the police.

1914 09 18

Village enlistment – Newton, Quy, Ickleton, Gransden, Boxworth, Fen Drayton, Elsworth, Abington, Willingham, Linton, Histon, Conington

1914 10 23

Belgian refugees Sawston, Histon, concert, Huntingdon, list Cambridge names & where billeted Recruiting Histon, names, Orwell

1914 10 30

Belgians – Waterbeach not help, Soham arrivals, Burwell, Bourn, Cottenham, Duxford, Gamlingay, Gt Eversden, Histon, Linton, Over, Sawston, Swavesey, Chatteris, Cheveley

1914 10 30

Histon recruiting meeting addressed by E.S. Montagu MP, alleged it was for political purposes\*

Enlistment Hardwick, Histon, Oakington, Litlington, Guilden Morden,

1914 11 06

Histon patriotic concert

1914 11 13

Histon Institute Rifle range

1914 11 20

Casualties – Parsons of Frenchs Road, Simpkins Ely, Tibbet Histon,

1914 11 20

Histon VAD Hospital Firs prepared, comforts, walking sticks

1914 11 25

A Novel Application. The Chesterton Guardians had a novel application before them at their meeting held yesterday (Thursday), when the Master (Mr. A. Wild) informed the Board that there was a man waiting downstairs who wanted to know if the Board could supply him with

a young lady as a wife. During the past month the man had twice been to see him on the same question. He had told the man that he could not help him in the matter, but he wished to see the Board. Mr. Cross: Does he come from Histon? The Master: Yes. He is downstairs. I have not sent him away, but I told him I did not think you could, assist him. Mr. Hawkins: There is no one in the House who would like to, take this post? The Master: I think not, sir.

1914 11 27

Histon Firs Belgian wounded, Biggs enlists

1914 12 11

Trade & employment in Cambridge have not been hit by the war. But with nearly 600 students missing, colleges that are hardest hit will be unable to keep on all their servants. Twenty per cent of builders are now out of work. Many women are employed in the jam factory at Histon and in the two knitting factories where War Office order have provided more work than usual. Women have obtained posts vacated by men clerks who have gone to war but a large number of day girls are out of work owing to the light of the lodging-house keepers. As these girls are in many cases the daughters of women who are themselves injured by the war, this state of affairs means a further depletion of an already scanty income. For good general servants there is a greater demand than supply, but there is very little demand for the services of any of the better class of servants and the number of between-maids out of employment is especially large. Hand laundresses have been very hard hit by the war. The great majority of these women are normally engaged in working for the colleges and, owing to the stoppages of games, the amount of washing sent per man is much less this term. When the woman is the chief breadwinner of the family their position is extremely serious. The laundresses themselves are not in such a bad plight, for many have made considerable sums during the busy six months of the year and many of them have savings laid by. But only in very few cases have they got husbands in independent work. A large number of tailoresses are entirely unemployed and the remainder are working short time. Some have gone to Leeds to work making khaki uniforms and others will probably follow. The better class dressmakers seem more affected than the inferior ones Business is slack just now and is expected to be much worse after Christmas when business is usually slack. The dressmakers and milliners' hand employed in shops seem to be on short time. Here too the better class shops are worse hit than the cheapest establishments and several employees say they will be unable to keep their hands for a prolonged period without a considerable improvement. Shirt makers are busy at present but their usual work is almost entirely replaced by the making of shirts for officers' outfits and there is apprehension that at the end of this term this work will be to a large extent cease

1914 12 18

'Belgian refugee' claims lodgings, Histon

Histon March's charity scheme

1914 12 25

Jane Pegg, wife of an Impington coal merchant, said she saw a man at Histon station wearing a blue overcoat similar to the greatcoats of the Belgian soldiers. He told he was from Hills Road Hospital; he'd been wounded at Liege where his father was killed by his side. Felling sorry, she'd given him a meal and invited him to stay for the weekend. But really he was a butcher from St Ives. The lad said he'd return to his mother and promise to be a good boy. But he was sent to prison with hard labour.

1915 04 30

Histon Red Cross Hospital ward – pic – 15 04 30a

1915 05 14

Cambridge Isolation Hospital new wards opened; description of building – 15 05 14a

Pte Charles Butler, of Histon Rd, dies of wounds – photo – 15 05 14b

1915 08 20

Lady French leaves Tipperary rooms; King visits EGH; war-time degrees, Senate House; Lady Jellicoe's visit; departure 1st Battalion, station; Red Cross auction sale; V.T.C. men on route march; St David's day scene; Cambs recruiting party leaving Cambridge; German helmet trophy; wounded soldiers at Waterbeach; Histon Red Cross Hospital ward 15 08 20a

1915 12 29

Histon VAD – staff and Firs photo – 15 12 29c – names – 15 12 29c

1916 01 05

A Fighting Histon Family. Congratulations to Mr. Fred Wilderspin, of High Street, Histon and his five fighting sons. Charles is with the Royal Artillery in the fighting line, Frank (2nd Suffolks) is a prisoner of war in Germany. William, Albert and Archie are in training with the Cambs. Regt "somewhere in England."

1916 02 16

Shortage of Labour. Although the advent of ladies to positions which had formerly been occupied by men has not become very general locally, yet several posts are being filled temporarily by members of the fair sex (according to a Histon paragraph). The chief place where this is noticeable is the G.E.R. goods office, where two lady clerks are now employed.

1916 03 01

Miraculous Escape. Among the passengers on the P and O liner Maloja which was mined between Folkestone and Dover on Sunday morning and went down with a loss of about 150 lives was Miss Lily Dockerill daughter of Mr. Walter Dockerill, Little Shelford. Miss Dockerill had a marvellous escape and her parents were greatly relieved on Tuesday to hear of her safety. She was on her way to Bombay to be married and among her luggage, which has been entirely lost was the whole of her wedding trousseau and presents.

1916 03 01

Regulation of Lights. To avoid any unpleasantness (says a Histon paragraph) the special constables wish to draw particularly the attention of householders, shopkeepers and all others whom it may concern to the fact that the strictest attention must be given to lights in their homes, etc. Dark blinds are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act. All blinds must be shaded with some dark material (green for preference) and no crevices may show at the top, bottom or sides. Red Blinds with no shading are not sufficient. If these regulations are not carried out the defaulters will only have them-selves to blame if trouble is brought upon their shoulders. In the case of hostile aircraft approaching the county all motor cars, motor cycles, pedal cycles and carts will be stopped and the drivers ordered to put out their front white lights and get on the side of the road and remain there until the danger is past. The rear red light must not be extinguished and they must not travel without lights. Further all lights in houses and buildings which cannot be absolutely darkened must be extinguished.

1916 03 08

Sudden Death of Schoolmistress. On Wednesday last the villagers of Cottenham and Histon were shocked to hear that Miss Florence Todd, assistant mistress at the Cottenham County School, had died under somewhat tragic circumstances, being found dead in bed at her sister's house at Histon. The deceased (a native of Cottenham) had made her home with her married sister and brother-in-law (Mr. and Mrs. Albert Todd). Deceased was also attached to the nursing staff at "The Firs" Red Cross Hospital at Histon. She was apparently in her usual good health and bright and cheerful spirits when she retired to bed on Tuesday night. She slept with her niece, who, upon waking, was startled to find her aunt cold and looking very pale. She rushed into her mother's bedroom and exclaimed that her Aunt Florrie was very cold

and looked funny in the face. She was found to be dead. Upon Dr. C. H. Cox, of Cottenham, and Dr. L. Davis, of Histon, conferring, it was deemed unnecessary to hold an inquest. Deceased was 40 years of age.

1916 03 15

Farm Fire. A serious outbreak of fire occurred at King's Hedges, near Milton, on Wednesday evening on a farm in the occupation of three smallholders, Messrs. Hawkes, Curtis and Tuffin. The fire was first observed shortly before nine o'clock, and before the flames were got under control great damage had been done to the outhouses, all of which were practically burnt, whilst a pony and two pigs were also destroyed. A good deal of concern was felt in Cambridge, the reflection of the flames in the sky being plainly seen from the town. Helpers from Histon and Milton and a party of soldiers, led by an officer who had noticed the glare in the sky, rendered valuable assistance in fighting the flames, whilst the County Police, under the direction of the Deputy Chief Constable (Supt. Webb), also afforded valuable aid. The house and several stacks and a good deal of livestock were thus saved. The loss, we understand, was covered by insurance.

1916 03 15

Personal. Mrs. Fred Moore (Histon) has had the honour of being appointed a member of the panel constituted by the Minister of Munitions for the purpose of a local Munitions Tribunal for the Cambridge District. Mrs. Moore is well-known in friendly society circles, being one of the trustees of the Foresters' Court Star of Histon. She is also a member of the Trade Board

1916 04 12

Leaving Histon. Another well-known resident is shortly expected to leave the village (Histon) in the person of Mr. H. J. Pratt. Mr Pratt came to Histon about seven years ago, and has since been a teacher at the Histon School. He leaves the district for Boston, near Peterborough, upon which appointment he is to be heartily congratulated. He will, however, be greatly missed in the locality, as he was connected with several local organisations. He is a prominent member of the Institute, and was on the General Committee, the Library Committee and the Games Committee. He was chess champion for 1915. He takes up his new engagement immediately after Easter, and leaves with the best wishes of his many friends.

1916 05 17

Chicks. Now that the chick season is in full swing, it would be interesting to know if the following achievement can be beaten. Mr. W. Woodroff, of Saffron Road, Histon set 15 eggs under one hen and 13 under another, and has successfully brought off the whole 28 chicks.

1916 07 05

Histon Feast Sunday. That there was a smaller attendance than in previous years at the Histon Parade held on Feast Sunday was not a matter to be wondered at, so many Histon and Impington lads- husbands, fathers, sweethearts - having voluntarily answered the call and come forward to take their part in the titanic struggle being waged on the Continent. There was hardly a man of military age to be seen on Sunday, but the older people, and the younger, too, gave ungrudgingly in response to this annual appeal on behalf of Addenbrooke's Hospital. The parade was well organised and the officials deserve heartiest congratulation on the success of the efforts.

1916 08 02

An Unpleasant Visitor. A somewhat unusual visitor put in an appearance at the house of Miss E. Chivers, of Cottenham Road, Histon, on Friday afternoon in the form of a snake. It was over three feet long, and appears to have been in the house for some time before it was noticed and its discovery caused a mild sensation in the house. It was, however, ejected before any damage was done.

1916 09 06

Jolly Tars - Although a very large number of local men have joined up with the Forces since the war, very few appear to have become sailors. Recently, however, two local (Histon) lads have become "jolly tars". The first is Bert Diver, who not long ago left the village, and is now on his first voyage, his ship being bound for the West Indies. The other "tar" is Bert Sneesby, who left on Tuesday last. Although not a native of Histon, he has lived in the village for a considerable time and was employed as a clerk at Messrs. Chivers.

1916 09 13

Vicar of Impington Resigns. During the afternoon service at Impington Parish Church on Sunday, the Vicar (the Rev. Dennis Hall) announced that the harvest festival would be held on the last Sunday in this month, and owing to the lighting restrictions, it would be held in the afternoon. He trusted the church would be decorated in the same manner this year as in past years. On this occasion, the Vicar said, it would be the last time he would occupy that pulpit as their Vicar. The Rev. Dennis Hall, who resides at Newnham, Cambridge, has been Vicar of Impington since 1882. He was formerly curate of Stow-cum-Quy. He is Honorary Assistant Under Librarian of the Cambridge University Library. A very good amateur carpenter, one of the first things Mr. Hall did at Impington was to buy a small organ from a parish church in Leicestershire, enlarge it, and fit it up in the church entirely by himself. He has evinced a keen interest in music, and himself possessed a fine tenor voice. The living is in the gift of the Archdeacon of Ely.

1916 10 11

Personal. Congratulations to Mr. Cecil Robinson (Histon), who has been elected Sub-Chief Ranger of the Cambridge District of the Ancient Order of Foresters. Mr. Robinson was chosen at the recent District meeting at Cambridge defeating for the position some ardent and prominent Foresters. Mr. Robinson is a keen Forester and will be remembered as the brother of Mr. W. F. Robinson, now a lance-corporal with the colours, who was the D.C.R. a year or so ago and who admirably filled the position. Mr J Robinson has for some time been Beadle of the Cambridge District, is a prominent member of the Court Pride of Histon, and is secretary of the juvenile branch and also of the Histon Women, Foresters.

1917 01 31

Golden Wedding. Mr. and Mrs. W. Saunders, of Brook Cottage, Histon, celebrated their golden wedding on Wednesday, January 24. They were the recipients of many letters and telegrams congratulating them upon their 50 years of married life. We are sure that every member of the various town and village cricket clubs will unite with us in our own warm congratulations to Mr. Saunders, the erstwhile redoubtable county cricketer and well-known captain of the Histon Cricket Club. Owing to the illness of Mrs. Saunders there was no house party to celebrate the event. Many old inhabitants of the village have cause to remember the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. W. Saunders, as they were granted a half-holiday from the Church Voluntary School to witness the unique event of a double wedding in the parish church. A sister of Mrs. Saunders (now Mrs. John Newman, of Leicester) was also married on the same day. The officiating clergyman was the late Canon C. W. Underwood, the then Vicar of Histon. Mr. W. Saunders is well-known in cricket circles throughout the county. His unbroken cricketing career extended over 50 years - probably a record never beaten in England - and was captain of the famous cup-fighting, village cricket club (Histon and Impington) for 25 years. He was presented with a silver rose bowl to commemorate the event. The first time an England XI returned from Australia (in the sixties) they were opposed by another team, picked from all England, on Parker's Piece. The latter side, for whom Mr. Saunders made 22 and took a number of wickets with his slow bowling, won. In those days, playing for Cambridgeshire against such sides as Yorkshire and other counties, Mr. Saunders - an amateur, was a successful bowler. Cambridgeshire at that time had some of the finest

cricketers in England, including Bob, Carter, George Tarrant, Tom and Dan Hayward (uncle and father respectively of Tom, of Surrey fame), F. Pryor, J. Fordham and Mr. Saunders.

1917 02 14

Killed in Action,—A smart capture was made by Mr. P. Matthews (Impington) on Friday last, when he shot a magnificent fox on Mr. Macfarlane Grieve's estate. Master Reynard had made some successful midnight raids prior to his being shot, and had done considerable damage. This is the seventh fox that has been shot by Mr. Matthews, some of which have wrought much havoc in the neighbouring poultry houses.

1917 02 21

Successful season. The Histon Juniors football team have just completed a most successful season. They have the following remarkable record: - Matches played 17, won 16, lost 1; goals scored for 63 against 13. We expect to hear more of these young sportsmen when once again we get into the full swing of sport and when the piping times of peace return.

1917 02 28

Fire at Histon. A fire broke out at Messrs. Chivers' factory at Histon on Sunday, and although involving considerable damage, it was, thanks to the efficiency of the appliances which were to hand, and the energetic steps taken by many willing helpers, fortunately prevented from assuming alarming proportions. The outbreak occurred in the temporary gas engine house attached to the drying floor which has recently been erected in connection with the new vegetable drying plant at the factory. The damage to the building and. plant probably amounts to about £200.

1917 04 11

Mr W.A. Macfarlane-Grieve - The death took place of Mr. William Alexander Macfarlane-Grieve at 9.40 on Sunday night at his Cambridge residence 35 Trinity Street, at the age of 72 years. The deceased gentleman was educated at St. John's College, Oxford, where he proceeded to the degrees of M.A. and Sc.L. In the year 1896 he became an incorporated M.A. of the University of Cambridge. He also held the degree of F.S.A. of Scotland of which he was always very proud. Mr. Macfarlane-Grieve bought Impington Park shortly before joining Clare College. He was known to be a staunch Conservative, although he had never taken any active part in the various campaigns, nor did he take any active part in the public life of the district. He was, however, an active member of the County Bench, being created a magistrate in 1903. It was only a fortnight ago since deceased's eldest son, Lieut. A. R. Macfarlane-Grieve of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, was killed in action (March 17) and he also lost his daughter recently. He leaves a widow and three sons, all holding commissions in the Army.

1917 05 02

Killed. A further number of local men were reported to have been killed on the field of battle. The latest published list included six names, a Histon couple losing a second son.

1917 05 23

A Petition. At the evening service at the Baptist Church (Histon) on Sunday, a petition was read by the Pastor and approved, unanimously by the congregation. The petition was to His Majesty the King, and has been forwarded to him by the Home Secretary. It was to the effect that those present pledged themselves to obey the recent proclamation of His Majesty as loyal subjects, but whilst doing so, they would petition His Majesty to take such measures as are right to prevent the waste of food by the consumption of alcoholic liquors.

1917 11 14

Histon Comedian Killed. We regret to announce that news has been received that Mr. Bere Carter, of Histon, has been killed in action in France. The news was conveyed home in a letter

to his wife. Bere was a sapper in the Royal Engineers and had been in France for a few months. He is the eldest son of Mr. Alfred Carter, of School Lane, Histon, who has two other sons serving. It appears Bere was killed instantaneously by a shell which dropped almost at his feet, and he has been buried at an English cemetery in France. Bere was undoubtedly one of Histon's finest productions and had a brilliant future. He was one of the finest comedians in the country and had been "on the boards" for a considerable time ere he joined the colours. He had been with two theatrical companies and had become assistant stage manager of the company with which he was connected. He was only recently married to a member of his company. Bere was well known in Cambridgeshire before he left home for the stage and had appeared in many concerts in the districts. He was a general favourite in Histon.

1917 12 12

Married at Cottenham - an interesting wedding took place at Cottenham Parish Church on Wednesday last and attracted considerable attention. The bridegroom was Sergeant Cecil A. Savidge, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Savidge, Denmark Road, Cottenham, and the bride was Miss Tessa M. Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Brown, Pepys Terrace, Impington. Sergeant Savidge joined the 11th Suffolks (Kitchener's Army) at Cambridge, and was wounded in France last year. He now holds a position as sergeant-instructor and is stationed in this country.

1917 12 18

A Hare Raid. Histon had a hare raid of its own on Tuesday afternoon. One of these animals made its appearance in the High Street, near the "Gables" and ran the length of the street to the Green, where it took refuge by swimming the brook. It was compelled to swim back across the brook by dogs, and after an exciting chase was eventually killed by one of the soldiers engaged in cleaning operations there.

1918 02 13

Rats and Sparrows, — Fierce rages the war on rats and sparrows in the locality (Histon and Impington). Statistics show that for the months of December and January some 251 sparrows and 308 rats' tails were handed to the collector under the scheme as arranged by the Histon and Impington Parish Councils. The rates recently published are still in vogue.

1918 02 16

Saved from Torpedoed Ship. Various rumours have been afloat with reference to Pte. Wm. Muncey, of Histon, who is with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. It appears that the company of which Pte. Muncey was a member, had neared the end of a sea voyage when their vessel was torpedoed, and all had to take to the water. Pte. Muncey managed, however, to reach the land but lost all his kit and his personal belongings; in fact, everything except the clothes he had on. He appears to be none the worse for his experience, however, and writes home very cheerfully.

1918 03 06

"Setting" an example. The setting of hens for chicks is now in full swing in the locality (Histon), and broods are coming off with varied success. One local enthusiast set a hen on 13 eggs, and the hen, after sitting like a rock for a fortnight, died. He was now in a quandary, but overcame the difficulty by putting the eggs into his oven, and a friend nobly came to the rescue soon afterwards with his incubator. As a result of the setting there were ten chicks, who are now doing well.

1918 03 06

County licensing – Tailor's Arms Comberton, Garden Gate at Histon, Horseshoe Fen Drayton, Swan with Two Necks Swavesey, Harvest Home Oakington referred – 18 03 06b, c

1918 03 06

Personal. His many friends will be pleased to hear of the success attained by Mr Charles Fletcher, a former resident of the village (Histon), Mr Fletcher has secured an important position with Messrs. Butterworth and Co, legal and medical publishers, whose head office is in London. In his new position, Mr Fletcher will tour the whole of Australasia to interview medical men. Prior to leaving his old firm, Mr Fletcher was presented with a cheque for £20 and a handsome gift.

1918 03 13

Military Wedding. A Military wedding of considerable local interest took place at Amesbury, Wiltshire, last Monday week, when Sergeant Philip C. Butler, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Fred Butler, of Histon, was married to Miss Constance May Silk, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Bert Silk, of Coton. The bride is now engaged on V.A.D. work at Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, whilst the bridegroom is at the First Military Hospital, Cambridge, The bridegroom is well-known in Histon and district in various sporting circles.

1918 04 03

Saved by his Testament. A Histon man has had a very lucky escape from death whilst in action in France. He was in the trenches when a bullet struck him in the chest. It passed through his pocket-case and through the letters and photos inside it. It also passed through his New Testament, leaving each page jagged with a hole through the middle. The Testament was one of the small Y.M.C.A. types. The bullet finally struck a cigarette case from which it glanced off and caused a rather serious wound in the chest, missing the heart by about half an inch. After being in various hospitals for some months, the soldier, Pte. Henry Gawthrop is now convalescent at the Histon Red Cross Hospital, being fortunate in getting back to his native village. The various articles in his pocket undoubtedly saved his life, and he now has them in his possession as very interesting souvenirs. It is interesting to note that the cigarette case was one he extracted from a bran tub at some Christmas celebrations in 1916, being given by Lord Hythe.

1918 06 12

Wedding Histon Red Cross hospital nurse – photos – 18 06 12d

1918 07 24

Licensing meeting; Star Brewery's Racehorse renewed, Earl of Durham on Newmarket Road; Johnny Gilpin, Gold Street; Horseshoe, Fen Drayton; Swan with two necks, Swavesey; Garden Gate, Histon closed; Harvest Home, Oakington renewed – 18 07 24a

1918 07 24

A Fighting Family. We have to announce that another of the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Parker, of Impington Lane, Histon, has had to have a part of one of his legs amputated. He was one of the Old Contemptibles in France, and went through the Battle of Mons onwards. He was wounded a short time ago, and it was found necessary to amputate a part of his leg at Salisbury. He is now at the 1st Eastern Hospital, Cambridge, and expects to undergo another operation as soon as he is sufficiently recovered.

1918 07 31

Raised £13,830. Histon rose grandly to the occasion in its War Weapons Week, and raised the magnificent sum of £13,830. A thermometer was erected on the Green for showing the progress of the "week."

1918 08 28

Wasps. The generous offer made by Mr. F. W. Peck, the well-known bee expert of Messrs Chivers, has been taken advantage of by many in the locality (Histon). Since making the announcement, Mr. Peck has accounted for no fewer than 145 nests, and incidentally he has collected the sum of £1 12s. 6d. for Addenbrooke's Hospital by making a nominal charge of



6d. for each nest. He also has 10s to be collected from residents whose pests he has removed. Some 60 of the nests were destroyed on behalf of Messrs Chivers. It is also interesting to note that included in the total were five hornets' nests.

1918 09 11

News from Australia. His many friends (in Histon) will be pleased to hear of the continued success of Charles A. Fletcher "down under." He is still in Sydney, New South Wales, but has left his old firm and is now managing the publishing of a telephone directory. His letters home speak volumes for "Sunny New South Wales."

1918 12 25

December 25, 1918

Comrades of the Great War. In connection with the above Society, a post consisting of 20 discharged soldiers has been formed in the village (Histon). All discharged soldiers and sailors are invited to join. Mr. John Chivers has given permission for monthly meetings to be held in the Institute in connection with the Society.

1919 01 29

Personal. His many friends will in many ways regret the departure for Belgium of Monsieur Fr. De Loose, who is returning to his native land and to his old home in Antwerp. Monsieur De Loose has been engaged at Messrs Olivers office (Histon) for a considerable time, where his polite and genial character has won for him the esteem of all. He has made many friends in Histon and Cambridge during his stay.

1919 03 12

Licences referred: do not renew Butcher's Arms, White Swan in Castle St, Corn Exchange Inn and beer houses White Swan Staffordshire St, Grafton Arms, Dog & Pheasant, Bird in Hand, Salmon on Newmarket Road; also Five Bells Cherry Hinton, Chequers at Harston and Bell, Histon – 19 03 12a

1919 04 16

Sale of Middle Whites. Messrs. John Thornton and Co. commenced a two-days' sale at Calcutt's Farm, Histon, on Tuesday afternoon, when about 60 pure-bred Middle White pigs from the celebrated herd of Mr, John Chivers were sold. There was a splendid attendance of buyers from all over the country, and as was expected, much keen bidding for such valuable stock. Mr. Chivers' herd has attained great honours at some of the first-class shows, including the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Manchester in 1916. The first day's sale brought in the fine total of 2,228 guineas. Top individual price was 90 gns. for the gilt, Histon Peeress.

1919 05 05

Histon raised £13,800 and had plane named after it; account of its service when piloted by Cambridge man – 19 05 05b

1919 05 28

Welcome Home. Histon and Impington gave their warriors a warm welcome home on Saturday last. The proceedings took the form of a tea and entertainment. The tea took place in Messrs Chivers' men's dining room, 166 men attending. The entertainment was in the beautiful grounds of the Firs. It was provided by the well-known Cambridge concert party, the Magpies, under the supervision of Mr. H. Godwin Hunt. The programme was very enjoyable throughout.

1919 07 09

Local man's success. His friends in Histon will be glad to hear of the success attained by Mr. William Handley in California. He has been awarded his B.A. degree with high honours from

the College of the Pacific, He is commencing at once to study for his M.A. degree. Mr, Handley left the village for California some years ago.

1919 07 16

"Some" Bowling, Playing for Histon on Tuesday against Willingham, when Histon won by 49 runs, Harry Christmas put up a remarkable bowling performance. In the two Willingham innings he took no less than sixteen wickets for 13 runs. Is this a record?

1919 08 13

War Memorial. There was a large and representative gathering at a joint meeting of the inhabitants of Histon and Impington for the purpose of discussing and definitely settling upon what form the war — or peace — memorial for these two villages should take. It was eventually moved - and unanimously agreed - that the permanent peace memorial should take the form of a recreation ground with a memorial stone, and that at the same time as the people collected for that, they should also collect for the fund for the benefit of the dependents of the fallen and the men who had been disabled in the war.

1919 08 20

Hunter. A Histon cat has developed into a mighty hunter. It finds nothing too difficult to tackle. During a recent week it brought home the following to its master, Mr. J.M. Taylor: Three wild rabbits, four full-sized rats, two stoats, 20 mice, eight sparrows, one mole, one thrush. The rabbits were brought home alive, but the others, including even the stoats, had been killed. The cat has never been trained, but if it had what a wonderful retriever it might have proved

1918 08 21

Plumstones. — In view of the increasing need of charcoal, particularly in deference to the treatment of gassed soldiers, the scholars of the Impington Council School have responded to the call of the Government to collect plumstones. The children have taken up the movement very enthusiastically, and any quantity which residents may have will be gladly collected by them and handed over to the proper quarter

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1919 12 10

Histon Church Clock. "Parishioner" writes: "May I be allowed to call attention to the old church clock? Residents, chiefly those living and working at the Church End, do miss and more than miss the old clock striking out the hour which has always been a great boon and convenience. The clock and, if necessary, the wherewithal would be raised in less than a trice.

If the churchwardens or responsible authorities could remedy this small matter it could doubtless be put in order, many would be grateful

1920 01 07

Impington fire premises Joshua Unwin corner Impington Lane – 20 01 07b; photo – 20 01 14b

1920 01 14

Railway carriages as dwellings; urgent cases at Histon; family of 13 in two rooms – could put carriage in garden – 20 01 14; photo – 20 02 11b

1920 04 14

Accident cyclist and lorry at Histon – photos – 20 04 14b

1920 04 14

Billiards. The final of the Billiards Handicap of 150 up, organised by the Histon Institute took place at the Institute on Thursday evening. The finalists were Messrs, Cyril Littlewood (owed 60) and Frank Smith (owed 15). After an interesting game the former won by 33 points. The full list of prize-winners for the handicap is as under, some very keen and interesting games having been played: 1 C. Littlewood, 2 Frank Smith, 3 George Adams, 4 Percy Vials. Messrs. George Oakman and Claud Wilson were awarded prizes for being the closest losers in the preliminary and first rounds.

1920 05 26

Stable fire. Three farm horses were burnt to death in a fire which broke out at 10 p.m. on Friday in the stables of Crawcutts Farm, Histon. This is the breeding place of Messrs. Olivers' herd of middle white pigs, but fortunately the herd was uninjured. The origin of the outbreak is unknown. The buildings were constructed in wood which had been tarred and creosoted, and they were quickly destroyed. The harness room and one or two small outbuildings were also burnt out, and large quantities of straw bedding blazed furiously. Thirty pigs and a valuable horse were rescued from the danger zone but efforts to remove the three farm horses were unavailing. The fire engine from Messrs. Chivers' factory was taken to the scene of the outbreak, and within a short time firemen and volunteers had the conflagration well under control. Within an hour the fire had been completely extinguished.

1920 06 02

Histon fire Cawcutt's Farm – photo – 20 06 02c

1920 07 07

Cycle Handicap. A 25-mile cycle handicap promoted by Histon Institute Cycling Club took place on the Huntingdon Road on Saturday afternoon. The following were the winners- 1 Bert O Adams (1 hour 6 mins. 34 secs.) 2 R. Alexander (1 hour 7 mins 9 secs), 3 Percy Butler (1 hour 9 mins, 7 secs.). Bert Adams had the fastest time of 1 hour 12 mins. 49 secs., and Messrs. E. and B. Grimwood tied for second place for the fastest time. In conjunction with the event there was a team race .between teams captained by the captain of the Club (Mr. E. Grimwood) and the treasurer (Mr. W. Beavis). This was won by Mr. Beavis's team.

1920 08 11

Football - The annual meeting of the Histon and District Football League was held in the Histon Institute on Wednesday evening. Mr. L. R. Neaves, of Coton, occupied the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary of the League (Mr. J. Harold Peck), and there were representatives from the following clubs: Willingham, Cottenham North End, Milton, Comberton, Histon Institute, Girton, Oakington, Cottenham, Horningsea and Coton. Apology for non-attendance was received from Over Hotspurs. Mr. John Chivers was re-elected president of the League, and the following vice-presidents were also elected, subject to their

consent: Dr. J. M. King (Willingham), Mr. Arthur Rhodes (Histon), the Rev S. T. Adams (Cambridge). Dr. Balsam (Girton). Mr. F. H. Keats (Milton), Mr. T. F. Essex (Milton), Mr. Thomas Ivatt (Cottenham), the Rev. W C. Cooke, R.D, and the Rev. R. Smith (Histon), Mr. Philip Papworth (Oakington), Mr. John Papworth (Landbeach), the Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P. Mr. G. Rogers (Comberton), Mr. Gordon Baker (Girton), Dr. Ellis (Cottenham), Mr. B. W. Silk (Coton), and Rev. David Oliver (Over). Mr. A. T. Rogers was re-elected hon. treasurer and Mr. J. Peck auditor. Mr. J. Harold Peck was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. L. B. Neaves (Coton) chairman of the council. The secretary's report, which was very satisfactory, was presented by Mr. J. H. Peck. Over Hotspurs were the winners of the cup, with Coton runners-up. The treasurer's report was also presented, and showed a satisfactory balance in hand. Various alterations were made to the rules of the League and it was decided this year to present twelve medals instead of eleven as heretofore. The entrance fee to clubs this season is 10s. Entries close September 1.

1920 10 27

Pigs Sale. An important sale of pure-bred large white pigs from the herd of Messrs. Chivers and Sons Ltd. took place yesterday at the Piggeries, Histon, conducted by Messrs, John Thornton and Co. Fifty-eight pigs realised 1.843 guineas, the average price being £.32 17s. 10d. The top price realised was 75 guineas for Histon Lady Mollington 17th, bought for Lord Rosebery's "Dalmeny" herd. Mr. Fleming paid 70 guineas for Histon Belle, 20th. The prices were much below the sale in May last, but the industrial situation had a good deal to do with this, many buyers being prevented from attending. After the sale of the gilts the money given for the boars exceeded anticipations.

1920 10 29

Histon station fatal accident

1920 11 04

Histon railway fatality inquest

1920 11 10

Histon station fatality – platelayer killed – 20 11 10

1920 11 17

Histon & Waterbeach memorials unveiled – 20 11 17a

1921 03 03

Histon draper R.J. Coles in dispute with R.A. Publishing over picture postcards of village; some colour, some sepia; 12 topics – 21 03 30h # c.65.5

1921 05 25

Impington Hall for sale – 21 05 25d

1922 05 26

The report went on to state that a shortage of water was experienced at Harston and Great Wilbraham; the supply was depleted by the pumping at the Cambridge Water Company's new works and by the drought. The latter difficulty had now been overcome by the Company fixing four standpipes in the village. Most of the wells at Little Wilbraham failed during the drought. Considerable discussion arose as to the condition of the polluted brook at Histon. It was stated that the people of Histon were living in a "stink pot"

1922 08 02

The gods invariably smile on the successful. Histon Show and Sports, one of the best managed and successful meetings in the Eastern Counties, was again favoured with delightful weather. The sports are, of course, the principal attractions at Histon and the officials are

nothing if not up-to-date. The track was in splendid condition, and long before the races were due to commence there was a large crowd present, though none of the special trains had then arrived, and it looked fair to beat the previous record in attendance. One could not help but admire the megaphone steward. Gifted with a sonorous voice he was an artist of the game and greatly added to the success of the meeting

1926 04 26

Coun Unwin asked what steps could be taken to avoid the dangers to traffic on the blind and awkward corners on the main road through Histon. At Stone Corner the road including the pathway was about 15 feet wide and it was quite a blind corner. Imagine two Ortona buses each measuring about seven feet wide, meeting each other there. It would be an expensive job to take down the buildings which were close to the edge of the road. Perhaps a bye-pass road would be a better alternative

1926 05 26

A journey to London and back in an invalid chair is something of an achievement. This is how Mr H.D. Davies, son of Dr Davis of Histon, spent the Whitsun holiday. Starting from home at 10.30 am Sunday, he reached London at 7.30 pm having stopped at Royston en route for dinner. Early next morning he had a run into the city. He returned to Cambridge safely at 8.30. Mr Davis has ridden in his chair for two years or more but had never been faster than Saffron Walden before. His chair was "the ordinary standard pattern" and he could travel at a rate of ten miles an hour, "But of course I have to go slow uphill", he added.

1926 07 30

James Diver told an inquest that they were cycling home together from Chivers' factory. Two trains were about to pass the Impington level crossing; he waited by a lamp post and the deceased went to the gates and stood there. Owing to the noise of the trains neither heard the approach of a bolting horse; its knees hit deceased's bicycle and knocked him into the gate, which was broken in half.

1926 12 08

There have been complaints of certain effluent entering the parish ditches at Histon and Impington and Messrs Chivers had approached Cambridge Borough Council to draw up a scheme whereby sewage could be taken by means of pipes to the Cambridge sewage farm. The parish council had not been asked to be parties and it raised the question whether they should work jointly with Chivers. It would cost a considerable amount of money. There had been talk of Histon and Impington being taken over by the Borough of Cambridge. If so the cost would be borne by the whole of the people in it, to the great advantage of the village. Extensive building was going on and it would not be long before they built up to the boundary

1926 12 29

Mr J.G. Davies of Histon had another long jaunt on his two-speed hand-propelled invalid chair just before Christmas. He left Histon intending to go to Manchester but when he arrived at Leicester decided to come back again. A considerable part of the journey was done by night and he had several little adventures on the road including a collision with a milestone and being thrice stopped by tramps, one of whom threatened violence. "He became so wild that as I could not defend myself very well in my chair I had to resort to the gun which I carry with me on these little journeys and, pulling it out, I threatened him with it, so he cleared off, to my relief", he said.

1927 02 14

The Rural Planning Sub-Committee is preparing a scheme to submit to Cambridge Council – not only for the area around its borders but including all the villages from Histon to Stapleford. It was important at a regional survey should be made now, before unconsidered development complicated the problem too much. Questionnaires sent out to the Women's

Institutes had brought valuable suggestions of things to be preserved. The County Council was considering a comprehensive scheme.

1927 08 03

A well-known figure in Cambridge and Histon, John Guillian Davies, has died. Mr Davies, who was a cripple paralysed in the lower limbs from a very early age, gained considerable notoriety for long distance journeys in his two-speed, hand-propelled invalid chair. Last December he travelled to Leicester and back, a distance of 150 miles and previously he had journeyed to London.

1927 08 25

An empty furniture van belonging to Mr R.W. Finbow of Hooper Street, Cambridge, was proceeding to Kentford when it suddenly burst into flames. Mr Fred Saunders of Histon, who was closely behind, obtained a fire extinguisher but the flames had secured a great hold and this proved of no avail. Other motorists and an A.A. scout rendered every possible assistance but their efforts were in vain and the van was soon reduced to charred ruins.

1927 11 26

Chesterton RDC received the layout submitted by Cambridge Estates Ltd for a new building estate in the parish of Impington. They had acquired 30 acres of land. The estate a considerable frontage to Arbury Road. It could be drained mainly into Milton Road by a new road to be called Hurst Park Avenue. It would be developed uniformly on garden suburb lines with wide roads & grass verges.

1928 01 28

Cambridge borough council considered plans from the Cambridge Estates Ltd for the construction of roads and sewers on the Hurst Park Estate which has an acreage of 30 acres, nine being in Cambridge and 21 in the parish of Impington. It is proposed to erect approximately 190 houses. Ald Raynes thought the public who were considering purchasing plots should be fully aware of what they were doing. Only a small portion of the estate was within Cambridge and the rest was in the Chesterton Rural District Council's area who did not have a single bylaw affecting buildings or the construction of roads

1928 11 06

Sir – I apologise to the many residents of Histon and Impington who responded to our invitation to witness a demonstration of phono films from our Conservative Association touring van. Owing to the obviously organised attempts to cause damage to the van and its valuable machinery by the continuous throwing of large fireworks I considered it unwise to give the demonstration. We advocate the fullest freedom to all political parties to place their propaganda before the public but the opposition which was meted out to us that night, under cover of the fog, was unworthy of any body of Englishmen – Walter W. Light.

1928 01 23

Ald L. Tebbutt objected to proposals for a bridge over the Old West River at Twentypence Ferry. Cottenham would be linked to two villages in the Isle of Ely – Wilburton and Haddenham, but he did not see that even Cottenham had very great interest in the matter. It was a very awkward road from Cottenham to Cambridge through Histon. There were so many corners at Histon – it was one of the worst places in the country. If they spent the money in putting Histon straight it would be of much greater benefit.

1929 01 16

Sir. Cottenham and Histon parents who have children using the Ortona bus to and from school in Cambridge are perturbed at the condition in which the children arrive. They are compelled to travel on the top deck of the open-top bus when it is full at the bottom. This usually happens in wet weather. What prevents the bus company from sending a covered

double-deck bus for their use? Children from Histon have an alternative to go by rail, which is considerably cheaper and are provided with a heated carriage and kept dry – A Parent

1929 02 13

Histon Parish Council is to adopt the Lighting Act and install 16 standard electric lamps fitted with 100-watt bulbs at a cost of £225. There was every possibility of the electric light cable being extended in a year or so when several more lamps would probably be installed. Nine standards will be installed at Impington where the electric cable only runs down the main street. The Electric Light Company would lay more cables when a sufficient number of applications had been received from private consumers but this was unlikely to be for some time to come

1929 03 16

There was no man who stood higher in the esteem of his fellows than John Chivers and the news of his death was received with widespread regret. The Free Churches had in him a good friend and, always a stalwart Liberal, he rendered yeoman service to the party. As the name of Cadbury is to Bournville so that of Chivers is to Histon. He developed the business that his father built up with the active and personal support of his three sons and today the fame of the 'Orchard Factory' has spread far and wide.

1929 03 30

Coun Rowley spoke of the serious pollution of Histon Brook. There was a stream of black sewage matter six inches deep. From this pollution he had lost two horses and another which was about to die and he had been put to very heavy expenditure for water. If water was taken from a pump at Cottenham fed by the brook it ate through the tubes in one hour. They should apply for an injunction against Messrs Chivers resulting in the stopping of the factory. But there were a large number of cottages, a large laundry and a butcher all discharging water into the brook crude, and not filtered as at Chivers. The pollution came from up the brook at Girton as well as lower down

1930 02 11

Cambridgeshire has lost another of its 'grand old men' with the passing of Mr S.H. Rowley at Histon in his 89<sup>th</sup> year. He was one of the original members of the County Council on its formation in 1889. He scorned the ordinary election methods but his victory was the signal for great rejoicing; the bells of Histon church were pealed and his supporters unharnessed his horse and drew him home amid hearty cheers. He resigned in 1896 becoming County Chief Road Surveyor, a post he held until 1909. 30 02 11

1930 06 18

Impington Hall has been presented to the County Council by Messrs Chivers & Sons to be used as a village college. It is in a good state of preservation and repair with central heating and electricity installed and is quite the finest site one could secure. It will provide a warden's house, caretaker's cottage, library and reading room together with two adult education rooms and staff room. A new block will be erected adjacent to it 30 06 18

1931 03 27

Impington church organ was bought from Barkstone, Notts., in 1891, being originally a one manual pipe instrument blown by means of a foot pedal. The Rev Dennis Hall reconstructed it with two manuals, adding swell pedals etc. But he was prevented from carrying out all the necessary work to obtain the fullest volume. Various repairs have been made but now a new organ is badly needed 31 03 27a

1931 04 03

A Histon man who could not be induced to sleep indoors was charged as 'an incorrigible rogue'. He had been a great trouble and nuisance; in the winter he slept in sheds and in the

summer under the trees. He had been born in 1900 and attended West Wrattling school later serving eight years in the army and four months in a military mental home. He was sent to Bedford gaol for three months. 31 04 03b

1931 06 05

In all proposals affecting change to local government, the sewerage problem looms large. Cambridge is provided with a sewage scheme which appears to be adequate and the sewage farm produces a satisfactory effluent. They could cope with Chesterton and Cherry Hinton but if the town boundaries were expanded to take in Histon and Impington it would cause problems 31 06 05 h i

1931 07 10

The annual Histon Feast Sunday parade was most disappointing, very few members of the friendly societies put in an appearance and there were no decorated vans or wagons. The Cottenham and Histon Salvation Army Bands stopped en route to play selections and there was a large crowd on the village green for the open-air meeting and the sacred promenade concert in the evening 31 07 10a

1931 07 11

The amount of land in Cambridge suitable for building was extremely limited and the cost was being driven up because of its scarcity. The urban population was spilling over into Histon and Impington which were being used as Cambridge bedrooms. But these were separated by a belt of orchard country and, more importantly, drained away from Cambridge. So the town council have decided not to expand into that area. 31 07 11c & d

1931 08 21

The parishes of Histon and Impington will vote on proposals for an extended Borough of Cambridge taking in the rural district within a three-mile radius. There was little desire on the part of rural residents to come into the Borough, there was no real community or interest between them. Cambridge would really be a little county with a population greater than Huntingdonshire. But what was left of Chesterton RDC would be unable to function and the administration of the rest of the county would be extremely difficult. 31 08 21c

1931 08 21

Sir. What prospects are there here for a healthy, ambitious man anxious to get on. The colleges are nice to look at but not much use in finding employment for men with growing families to clothe. The nearest factory is Chivers and when one sees the cleanliness of Histon and signs of prosperity and happiness of the villagers one marvels at how anyone who has to work for their daily bread can like Cambridge where the majority of local men are underpaid and discontented – ‘King without a castle’ 31 08 21k

1931 10 02

Sir - Many in Histon and Impington are perplexed as to how they will be affected by proposals to include them in Cambridge. This failure is largely due to their own neglect by not attending public meetings organised by the parish councils. The critical factor is sewerage: there are plans to build an estate at Girton but the Ministry say it must be sewered and Histon would be included to make it worth while. A sump near the Ballast Hole, a pipe line following the railway and sewer beds near Milton seem the answer. But how will it be paid for? – W.F. Robinson 31 10 02f

1931 10 02

A public meeting at Cottenham agreed to protest against the large expenditure of public funds on the proposed village college at Impington. Officials were suffering from spendmania, it was time the whole thing was hit on the head and done with. It was wrong to transport a large



number of children daily from the large village of Cottenham to the smaller village of Impington. If there was such a scheme, Cottenham was the place for it. 31 10 02j

1931 10 09

Impington does not wish for amalgamation with Cambridge: a meeting voted 146 votes to three against the suggestion. By remaining in the county they could settle their own affairs and no sewage scheme could be put into operation unless they wanted it. Their houses were let for five shillings, half that charged by the borough. They should preserve their individuality as a rural community. 31 10 09g

1932 05 23

Cambridgeshire Insurance Committee considered moving to the new County Hall, Castle Hill. It was a very fine situation but what sane business man having a base in the centre would go a mile out of town to a place scarcely anybody knew - even though there was a free motor park. But future development would be on the north of Cambridge as the County had offered a very large acreage of land between Histon railway station and the old Chesterton village 32 05 23 & a

1932 07 01

Sir – Histon has a railway crossing – but it is by no means a ‘level’ one. It needs a footbridge for pedestrians. Recently two villagers were waiting for one of the long goods trains to pass along the railway; “Is it a goods or a passenger” one asked. “Goods” was the resigned reply. “Then I’ll just go home and have a shave while it goes by”. 32 07 01b

1933 02 20

Histon bells dedicated – 33 02 20a

1933 06 28

Impington sewage, Comberton pond – 33 06 28

1934 04 16

There was a crowded congregation at Impington church for the dedication of the new organ. Slung from the roof supported on steel girders and enclosed in a panelled oak case, it is a great improvement to the chancel. Messrs Millers are to be congratulated upon constructing such a fine instrument which replaces one that has been in use for nearly 50 years 34 04 16

1934 04 18

A simple ceremony on the borders of Girton and Histon marked the change of something that has stood unaltered for about a thousand years. Manor Farm in Histon parish was far nearer Girton and it was more convenient to move the parish boundary. The Minister had agreed and 51 acres had been taken over. Now the boundary-post was dug up, put in a wheelbarrow and carried 200 yards down the road to its new position. 34 04 18

1934 09 21

Histon Dr Houghton car accident – 34 09 21

1935 01 10

Eastern Counties Omnibus Company said that following complaints about people being crowded off the buses they will increase services to Histon from 20 to 39 journeys a day on weekdays, with 43 on Saturdays and 18 on Sundays. This may be too much but they hope the traffic will warrant it. They were also given permission to run buses on race days between Warren Hill Station and Newmarket racecourse; hitherto only the LNER had been authorised to operate the buses on hire. But A.E. Nicholls of Clare was refused a licence to run a new Sunday service of four journeys between Clare and Haverhill. 35 01 10a, b

1936 05 22

Histon station fatal accident – 36 05 22a

1936 06 17

Sun shining through glass in the roof is believed to have started a fire in the wooden roof structure at Garden Hall in the grounds of Histon Manor. Mrs D. Barnard was cycling to her allotment to get some strawberries for tea when she noticed smoke. She knew there was an incinerator near, but the quantity of smoke was so great she decided to investigate. “When I saw that the roof was ablaze I ran up to the Manor House and rang the bell”, she said. “Only Mr Wood was in. I next went to the Post Office and got them to phone for the Fire Brigade. I then helped fix up a hose and threw pails of water on the outside of the roof”. The flames were soon under control. 36 06 17a

1936 08 29

‘Sunnyfields’ Estate at Histon features the latest type of labour saving houses built by F.L. Unwin and furnished by H.W. Peak of King Street Cambridge. 36 08 29b

1936 12 08

The draft Cambridge town planning scheme would see the construction of bridges and closure of the level crossings at Histon and Shelford with footbridges for pedestrians. The line of the Ring Road from Huntingdon Road to Shelford was agreed and the difficult question of the aerodrome settled. 36 12 08

1937 03 24

Lorry wrecks house corner Bell Lane Histon – 37 03 24d

1937 05 20

Chesterton RDC told an inspector that the parishes of Histon, Impington and Girton together with Shelford and Stapleford were provided with a piped water supply but were entirely unsewered, although some properties were connected to surface water drains that discharged into watercourses passing through the inhabited parts of the parishes. The development of building estates had given rise to cess-pool areas of considerable magnitude with the danger of pollution of the sub-soil. The pumping plants would be electrically driven and would not spoil the appearance of the countryside, there would be no smell unless one broke down. But nearby house owners claimed they might have an effect on the value of properties 37 05 20 & a

1937 10 13

County Council proposals for the establishment of village colleges at Swavesey and Impington have been approved by the Government. But they reject plans for a new junior school at Cottenham: it would be better to use the money from Insurance to rebuild portions of the burnt down one. Negotiation would be opened with Cottenham Eleemosynary Charities for the purchase of land in Lamb’s Lane. The County would also discuss with the Air Ministry about school-age children due to arrive in Bassingbourn in connection with the establishment of an aerodrome 37 10 13c

1937 11 01

At the dedication of a new organ at Histon Methodist church Dr W.H. Rouse said he had an organ which had been in the late Henry Martyn’s church. It was rather like a chest of drawers. It was ‘played’ by putting rolls like sausages through a hole in it; then one turned the handle and the hymns came out! A Histon church once had a similar organ which played four hymns. It was not possible to select any one of the four; the whole four had to be played in strict order. The new organ, built by A. Noterman of Shepherd’s Bush was used as a demonstration instrument in the film made by Gaumont-British showing the building of a church organ. Several of the leading cinema organists of the day have played on it. 37 11 01

1939 03 03

A new automatic telephone exchange situated in High Street Histon provides the latest modern automatic apparatus to serve the telephonic requirements of 200 subscribers, day and night. Now they are able to connect themselves automatically to nearly 5,000 telephone numbers without the aid of an operator. The charges, varying from one penny to four pence will be registered automatically on their individual meters. The service is not comparable to that enjoyed in the largest cities 39 03 03a

1939 08 12

Seventy local villages took place in the A.R.P. exercises, all suffering some pretend bombing. The first aid party leaders asked for cars in their villages and three were used as ambulances. In one large village a woman playing the part of a casualty was missed and after waiting two hours she rang up the warden to say, 'Please can I go home? I'm cold'. At Histon Chivers allowed their fire brigade to take part and general utility grades went out to 'explosions'. 39 08 12a

1939 10 05

For Evacuees. A social club for the benefit of evacuees has been started in the village (Histon) and at the first meeting 38 mothers and a good number of babies and young children were present. It is proposed that the club should meet every Monday and Friday at Impington School.

1939 11 08

Sir – may I draw attention to the wanton destruction of air raid shelters in Histon? For many Sundays a band of volunteers have worked to construct shelters for the public and school children in case of emergency. But elder children delight in removing the sandbags. Now almost the complete side has been taken from the shelter at School Hill and spread about. May I appeal to the special constables who seem to be rather efficient in some other instances – G. Grimwood – 39 11 08a

1940 04 15

Village College. At the invitation of Mr. Stanley Chivers, a number of old age pensioners foregathered in the common room at Impington Village College on Tuesday morning, when the Chairman explained the conditions under which they would be welcome to use the common room and with certain restriction the Institute premises adjoining. During the meeting the aggregate of the ages of these old age pensioners was taken. This amounted to 2,516 years, the average being 74, the youngest 65 and the oldest 85 40 03 15 CIP

1940 05 03

New Evacuees. Tuesday's meeting of the Chesterton Rural District Council, Mr. E. B. Newman, who is chief Billeting Officer, reported that the council had been asked to prepare to receive 2,000 additional evacuated schoolchildren if air raids developed. Of 10,000 leaflets sent to householders, 368 replies had been received, 60 of these from people unable or unwilling to receive evacuees. He suggested the council should press the Ministry of Health to reduce the number to the district to 1,500. On the proposition of Mrs. Bennett, who spoke highly of the way the people of Histon and Impington looked after the evacuees, the matter was referred to the committee, with a recommendation that the figure should not be more than 1,000.

1940 06 28

Presentation. As an acknowledgment of his services as billeting officer for Histon and Impington, Mr. A. W. Smith has been presented with a fountain pen by members of the local panel. The presentation was made by Mrs. Frances Bennett, the present billeting officer.

1940 08 16

Local Man's Achievement. On Sunday Flight Sergeant Donald Kingaby, son of the Rev. E. P. Kingaby (Vicar of Impington) brought down one German aeroplane and damaged another, and on Monday he followed up his successes by bringing down two more enemy planes.

1940 10 18

Village College tour. During a visit to Cambridge on Monday, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. R. S. Hudson) expressed a wish to see one of the county's famous village colleges and social centres. He was taken to Impington—one of the most recent of the colleges—where he was shown some of the many aspects of community work, not only of children, but also for adults.

1940 12 06

D.F.M. for Cambs. Man. The D.F.M. has been awarded Sergt Donald Ernest Kingaby, only son of the Rev. P. F. Kingaby, Vicar of Impington, and Mrs. Kingaby. Sergt. Kingaby, a member of 92 Squadron, R.A.F., has displayed great courage and tenacity in his attacks against the enemy, and it is officially stated that he has destroyed at least nine enemy machines, four of which he shot down in one day. On one occasion his plane caught fire over the sea, and he baled out at 10,000ft falling into a field near Whitstable. On another occasion he crashed on landing at another place in Kent, but was uninjured.

1941 01 10

Honoured by villagers. Nearly 400 residents of Histon and Impington paid tribute to the gallantry of a local hero at Impington Village College on Saturday evening, when Sgt. Pilot Donald Kingaby who was recently awarded the D.F.M., was the recipient of a presentation. It was a happy thought on the part of the organisers and the college hall was well filled. The presentation took the form of cigarette cases, a lighter and cash. – 41 01 07c

1941 02 21

Impington Village College dance band – 41 02 21a

1941 02 23

"May-Ladying" at Hildersham. In last week's "Passing Hour" (writes Watchman), Mr. Kidd, of Fen Drayton, gave some interesting extracts from a Histon school log book, one of which was: "1871, May 1st—It is the custom . . . for the girls to go May-ladying, i.e., they go to the principal houses carrying dolls and begging 'Please to 'stow a ha'penny on the poor old Maylady'. This event was common enough in many Cambridgeshire villages in bygone days (writes a correspondent), but the village of Hildersham was looked upon as being the headquarters of the movement. Here the girls, encouraged and helped by the aristocracy in the village, produced one of the finest Mayladies to be seen in the county, parading with it through their own and neighbouring villages. The parade was at its best in early Victorian days, but began to fade out about 70 years ago. There are many old inhabitants now living who can recall the dolls dressed and paraded by the Hildersham girls. The annual Cambridgeshire event became notable, and may be found briefly described in Brand's "Popular Antiquities", published in 1911. 40 02 23

1941 08 15

Late Mrs. Wesley Wolfe. Uncle David writes: "In the passing of Mrs. J. Wesley Wolfe, one of Histon's most strenuous social workers has left the scene of earthly activity to sound the mysteries of the beyond. No special occasion presented itself in the village but she was ready and willing to play her part, however strenuous and exhausting that part proved to be, for she seemed to revel in hard work and the overcoming of difficulties; but temperance work, especially amongst children, was her chief concern, and as Secretary of the Methodist Band of Hope for 27 years she was the inspiration of a devoted band of enthusiastic helpers who followed her lead, and the guide and friends of hundreds of children, who, now grown men

and women, owe a deep debt of gratitude for the lesson and influences that helped to mould their lives in the impressionable years."

1941 09 12

Percheron Sale. The highest price paid for a mare at the annual Percheron horse sale at Histon was 300 guineas, bid by Dr. Gregory, of St. Ives, for Mr. Thomas Cook's Louvette. Mr. Cook's stud is at Great Yarmouth. Louvette was first imported from France, and won first prize in its class at the show which preceded the sale.

1941 09 12

Gleaning. The old custom of gleaning has been much revived locally (at Histon) this year owing to the desire that nothing should be wasted and also because of the scarcity of poultry food

1941 10 24

Death of Mr. Walter Brett. We have to record the death of Mr. Walter Brett, of Station Road, Histon who passed away at his home on Friday, aged 68. Prior to his retirement, about three years ago he had been employed by Messrs. Chivers for over 40 years. The interment took place at Histon cemetery on Tuesday morning.

1942 01 23

Escape at Second Attempt. In September, 1940, we reported that Gunner E. Dimes, an old Duxford man, was a prisoner, and subsequently his wife received notification that from the authorities that they were unable to trace him and so he was reported "missing." However, in actual fact, Gunner Dimes was in a German prison camp, where he attempted to escape, but was captured and punished. With typical British tenacity he "tried again" and this time was successful. As a result, Gunner Dimes is now spending a well-earned leave at his home at 131 Station Road, Histon. Before the war he was a mail van driver, at Royston Post Office, but, being a reservist, was called to the Colours at the outbreak of hostilities. He would not tell of the conditions in a prison camp, nor of his escape, but when questioned as to what the food was like, said "Not so good."

1942 01 26

Histon & Shelford sewage scheme agreed – 42 01 26a

1942 01 30

Death of Mr "Bert" Grimwood. A well-known Cambridgeshire sportsman died after a short illness at Huntingdon in the person of Mr. Herbert Grimwood, known to the Eastern Counties cycling world as "Bert." He was 39. Chiefly known as a cyclist, he was one of the founders of the Histon Wheelers Cycling Club, and at one period its secretary. Several times he figured in the winning team in the Eastern Counties team championship and shield. He was well-known at all sports meetings in the Eastern and Home Counties and was the winner of many prizes and medals. He was a prominent member of the Cambridge Town and County Cycling Club and of the Huntingdon Town and County Cycling Club and also a timekeeper and official. He was the joint holder of the 25 miles tandem record of the Cambridge Town and County C.C. and held several records of the Histon Wheelers C.C. He was also the holder of the ten miles Eastern Counties N.C.U. championship. After his business took him to Huntingdon, it occupied most of his time, but he always spared time to assist at races and record attempts, and in recent years a spell of fishing often occupied his leisure hours. He had been employed by Messrs. Chivers and Son since he was 15.

1942 02 13

Histon's Treble D.F.M, Married, Histon, in spirit, was much in evidence at Bromley, Kent, on Saturday when the marriage of its most noted hero took place, Pilot Officer Donald Kingsby, of Beaucourt, Park Lane, Histon, being married to Miss Helen Watkinson, of

Stanley Road, Bromley, The ceremony took place at St. John's Church, Bromley. Pilot, Officer Kingsby has won the Distinguished Flying Medal with two bars (a triple winner)

1942 05 01

Guard of Honour. There was a guard of honour for Sapper V. A. Hagland, of London, and his Impington bride, Miss I. Meredith, of 19 College Road, after their wedding in the village- on Saturday. The bridegroom was photographed while being greeted by his father, Mr. Wm, Hagland, who, though now retired, was once the oldest driver on the L.N.E.R. He has had a notable career. Starting as a van boy in 1880, he qualified as a driver, and had the "Aberdonian" and other famous expresses in his charge. Mr. Hagland was twice on television, and has also appeared in the "In Town Tonight" programme on radio. He has 14 living children and 24 grandchildren.

1942 05 22

Death of Mr. J. H. Durrant. We have to record the death of Mr. J. H. Durrant, of 24 Merton Road, Histon, who passed away at the age of 79 years. Deceased was a retired Metropolitan policeman, and had lived in Histon for about four years.

1942 10 02

High-explosives near Histon and another near Roseford Rd 42 10 02

1942 11 06

Officer killed. News has been received of the death from wounds in the Middle East, on October 26 of Lt. C. R. Parker, Beds, and Herts. Regiment. He had joined the Army as a boy of 14 and had risen from the ranks to lieutenant at 21 when death cut off his career, so full of promise. He was a middleweight boxer, well-known in the services. Condolences go out to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Parker, of 56, Cottenham Road, Histon who lose their elder son

1942 11 13

Famous General. I learned with great interest this week (writes Watchman) that Lt. Gen. S. Rowell, commander of the Allied Forces which recaptured Kokoda, New Guinea, who was pictured in the National Press some days ago, has associations with Cottenham. Writing from Dulwich, Mr. T. Gautrey states: "During his military training in this country, he was a frequent visitor to Cottenham, and spent one holiday picking fruit in the Histon Road orchards. At the beginning of the war he was promoted to General - the youngest in Australia. His forebears were emigrants from Cottenham about a century ago and settled in South Australia and grew fruit; some of the family are still doing so. The family, now much increased, have been remarkably patriotic, four of them went voluntarily through the South African campaign at the end of the last century and eight came to assist during the Great War. Several, among them Gen. Rowell, are helping in the present, war. The emigrants lived in Church End, and their barn was the original meeting place of one of the Baptist chapels.

1943 04 23

Pygmalion. In presenting George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion at the Village College on Friday and Saturday, the Histon and Impington Dramatic Society put on undoubtedly one of its best performances. In its 10th season, it was the 25th production of the society. There were large and appreciative audiences both evenings, and the ovation accorded the players at the end of each performance was well deserved. It would be invidious to pick out any member of the cast, for all were in remarkably good form, and the whole show was put over with considerable credit, a high standard of acting being reached.

1943 05 21

Awarded the D.F.C. The King has been pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations: D.F.C.: P.O. David Rogers, R.A.F.V.R., No. 9 Squadron. Pilot Officer Rogers has taken part in many operational

sorties against the enemy. He has invariably displayed efficiency and ability of a high order as a wireless-operator-air gunner. Under the most harassing circumstances his coolness and courage had been worthy of the highest praise and has rendered him a valuable member of his squadron. Pilot Officer Rogers was born in 1914 at Histon where his home is.

1943 07 23

New Vicar. It is announced that the Rev. Edward H. Sibson, vicar of Histon, has been appointed to succeed the Rev. James Thompson at Christ Church (Cambridge). He has been at Histon since 1936. In 1935 he married Miss M. L. Squires

1944 03 03

Village College in London Show. — "Revealing Britain," an exhibition of British Council photographs, now on view at the Kodak Galleries, 84 Regent Street, London, W.I, shows for the first time a selection of the photographs which the British Council is sending abroad with its Press articles, etc; (says Watchman). One feature of interest to us in Cambridgeshire is a series recently taken of Impington Village College, showing the activities both during the daytime and during the evenings, when it is used for adult education and as a social centre. Copies of two of these pictures reached me yesterday. One is a spectacular "shot" of an open-air physical training class and the other an informal glimpse of a meeting of the College Horticultural Society.

1944 03 03

Performance of "Aladdin"—an excellent performance of "Aladdin" was given in Impington Village College on Thursday week by a cast of sixty performers, and was enjoyed by a large audience.

1944 08 04

Stole explosives. Two Histon boys, who stole a big quantity of high explosives from Home Guard stores, appeared before the Cambs County Juvenile Court on Saturday. Aged 16 and 15 respectively they admitted two charges of breaking and entering and stealing from Home Guard stores, and asked for eight similar cases to be taken into consideration. The value of the property involved was £35 and the whole of it was taken from Home Guard stores in the Histon and Impington district. A constable said one boy had told him he had blown up some old dead trees. The magistrates fined the 16-year-old boy £5 on the first charge and £3 on the second, and the other boy £2. and £1.

1944 12 01

Awarded M.M. at 19.—News has been received that Pte John Hills, of The Leys, Barton, has been awarded the Military Medal. He is only 19. Before joining up, he was employed by Messrs. Olivers and Sons, Histon.

1945 02 02

Stolen Wheat. Alfred John Kester, Meadow Farm Cottages, Oakington Road, Histon, pleaded guilty to the theft of a sack containing about cwt. of tail wheat valued at 11s., the property of his employer, Sidney Smith Rowley. P.S. Fouracre, of Histon, gave evidence of stopping the defendant, whom he saw carrying a sack over the handlebar of his cycle. When questioned about what was in the sack, the defendant said it was wheat he had grown on his allotment. After further questioning, the witness asked if the wheat came from the farm, and the defendant replied: "Let me take it back." The defendant had nothing to say in court about the matter, but his employer told the magistrates that his work was perfectly satisfactory and he was willing to keep him on. "I have given him a good talking to, and he has promised me it will never happen again," he said. A £2 fine was imposed.

1945 02 16

No thriving licence. A resident of Portugal Place: pleaded guilty to driving a car at Histon on January 13th without being the holder of a licence. The case was proved by W. R. Ison, Histon, who said that the defendant's licence had expired on March 1st. 1943. The defence put forward by Mr. Wild was that the defendant was a member of the Observer Corps, and had overlooked the fact that they did not cover him for a licence. He was fined 30s.

1945 03 16

Soccer victory. Histon Institute reached the area final of the East Anglian Cup in which they will meet Cambridge, by winning the replay 6-4 with Newmarket at Histon on Saturday. The game opened at a fast pace and the Institute quickly opened the scoring through Kimpton. Within three minutes Knott added to the lead after Carlss had hit the bar. The Newmarket defenders were finding it difficult to hold the fast moving Histon forwards, and after Brown had cleared off the goal line, Knott burst through the middle to score again. Then Newmarket began a series of rushes on the Histon goal and from one of these their inside right headed a neat goal. Play became more even, with both teams attacking in turn. Ten minutes from half-time Knott completed his hat-trick and almost from the restart Sanderson scored the Stutes fifth goal. Half-time: Histon 5 Newmarket 1. Newmarket took up the offensive in the second half, forcing Stephen, in the Stutes goal to make some fine saves, although he was well beaten by a good shot from the Jockeys' inside left. Within a minute Sanderson went through to score Histon's sixth goal. For a period the game slackened off. Newmarket then began to force the pace, and with the Stutes defence tiring scored two quick goals. Newmarket tried hard to level the scores, but were held, and the game ended with the Stutes on the attack.

1945 06 15

Birthday Honours. Two names of local interest appear in the list of King's Birthday Honours announced today (Friday). They are those of Prof. C. E. Inglis, F.R.S., lately Professor of Mechanical Sciences at Cambridge University, who becomes a Knight, and Mr. S. O. Chivers, a director of the Histon firm of Messrs. Chivers and Sons, who has been awarded the C.B.E.. Well-known in Cambridge for his great interest in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Mr. S. O. Chivers receives the CBE as Hon. Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Food on Fruit and Vegetable Products. In 1942 he went to America for the Government on important work, and for this was attached to the British Food Mission. A member of the General Committee of Addenbrooke's, he is also chairman of the Maintenance Fund Committee.

1945 07 20

Disastrous fire Histon, four houses ablaze, 21 people homeless – 45 07 20

1945 08 31

Released. What is believed to be first news of one of the Cambridgeshires released from captivity in the Far East reached us last night as we were going to press. The following cablegram, addressed to "Unwin, Seedsman, Histon." was received earlier in the evening; Philip, fit and well, Bangkok. Reply c/o Swiss Consulate. The cable was handed in at Bangkok on Monday, August 27th. Capt. W. P. Unwin, of the 2nd Batt, Cambridgeshire Regt., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Unwin, of Orchard House, Impington. He is married and has a little son of 34, whom he has never seen. "We are exceedingly lucky to hear so soon," said Mr. Unwin in response to a phone call last night. "I believe we were among the first to hear that Philip was a prisoner after the fall of Singapore. We have had three cards in all from him. The last, received about Christmas time, was dated May, 1944." Bangkok is the capital of Thailand, formerly known as Siam.

1946 08 26

Storm damage Histon haystack, Motor Boat Club bungalow – 46 08 26



1947 04 07

Members of the Yugoslav Government Commission were amongst the buyers at the 35th annual sale of large white pigs held at the sale yard, Histon. The pigs were from Messrs Chivers & Sons Ltd Histon herd. Representatives from New Zealand and the Russian Government Commission were also present, though they made no purchases. The total realised was approximately £2,636, 47 gilts averaging £41.19s.3d each and 11 boars averaging £67.11s.7d each. Mr O.H.Mercer of Harlaston, Tamworth, Staffs was the buyer of the top-price gilt, Histon Lady Mollington, 367th at 130 gns. Histon Eastern Boy, the top-price boar was bought by Mr R.V.Boyce of Lidgate, Newmarket

1947 06 25

An afternoon and evening literally crammed with entertainment for both spectators and competitors took place on the Histon recreation ground when Messrs Chivers and Sons held their annual sports day. Major E.R. Dudgeon (Eastern Divisional Food Officer) said "There are no more outstanding products for quality than those produced by Messrs Chivers & I want to congratulate both management and workers on the great job they are doing. They send the fame of this island to the four corners of the earth"

1947 07 10

Sir. This week Histon villagers should normally be celebrating the traditional age-old annual Feast, but alas! When the children and their accompanying parents assembled to partake in the amusements that one is accustomed to find pitched on the village green, they found this pleasant open space as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard. Excepting for one or two years during the war the oldest inhabitant states that she never remembers the showmen missing Histon feast and the family of Thurston have always been associated with the festival. The Histon council includes many people who have migrated to the village and personally have no room for such traditional customs as village feasts. - letter

1947 09 10

Nearly 1,500 employees at Messrs Chivers' Histon factory were on the air for the first time yesterday to supply those generous blasts of applause which characterise the "Workers' Playtime" half-hour. Packing the works canteen to capacity they observed compere-cum-cheerleader Bryan Sears' "instructions" in good part and precisely at the end of the ten-second on-the-air red warning, unleashed a swell of applause. Particularly during the war the Chivers canteen has been the venue for many E.N.S.A. lunch-time concerts and the Works Orchestra now often entertains the workers there.

1947 11 22

The outbreak of fowl pest in Cambridgeshire has reached serious proportions and up to Thursday no fewer than 23 separate cases have been confirmed. Altogether a total of 3,850 birds have had to be slaughtered. The disease is believed to have been brought into the county by birds sold at Cambridge market on October 6th and 13th. The first outbreak was confirmed at Impington and it rapidly spread. One section of Messrs Chivers pedigree flock has been affected and some 60 birds have had to be killed. The pest has resulted in the killing of hundreds of head of poultry in Hunts. Outbreaks have been reported at Brampton and Colne in addition to the case at Ramsey several weeks ago

1948 02 07

Just before 7 o'clock last Saturday night the canteen of Messrs Chivers & Sons Ltd, The Orchard Factory, Histon, closely resembled the latest advertisement from this famous firm - "All set for a jolly good party". Where hundreds of workers regularly take their meals were festive decorations attractively placed and a buffet tastefully set out in more ways than one to attract the attention of those who, having been engaged on food production for five days, returned on Saturday to enjoy a social evening with fellow employees. The programme opened with a selection of gramophone records. After refreshments the company divided,

some dancing to the music of the Augmented Works Dance Band whilst others interested themselves in many sideshows and competitions

1948 05 21

Four hundred teachers from Cambridgeshire are gathered at Impington Village College on a course which is believed to be the first of its kind in this country for teaching in rural areas. In his speech at the opening session Henry Morris, Chief Education Officer, said: "In this technological, scientific world we are over-organised and suffering from an excess of administration"

1948 09 24

Several million people in Great Britain ate their Sunday dinner to a radio broadcast of Cambridge accents and comments from the clubroom of Histon's Barley Mow. Jake Smith told the "Country Magazine" programme some stories of his pumping station during the 1947 floods - how it was swamped out and subsequently pumped non-stop for 336 hours. "Everything went through the pumps", he said, "including a tremendous lot of fish". Fred Toates told of his job of getting rid of rats and rabbits, with wasps and hornets as a summer-time addition. "Funny thing how the hornets get into all the "posh" houses - Doctor's and parsons and such places. Mrs Young Nightingale said "I've always done gleaning ever since I can remember. It's a job you've got to like doing, because it's very tiring. If you don't keep your back down you won't get much

1948 09 25

Speaking on the Radio "Country Magazine" broadcast from Histon Reg Robinson, a Babraham farmer, said "You'll only get one quart out of a waggoner", which had a similar meaning to "a pint out of a pint pot". The "waggoner" was a grey china mug out of which the waggoners of bygone days used to have a quart when they stopped at a public house. "The last one I saw was at the King's Head, Sawston," Mr Robinson added. "Some of them used to have a pattern with a black line round the top". I wonder if there are any to be found in local "pubs" these days?

1948 09 27

The fear that the centre of gravity of the new Fen county to be formed from Cambridgeshire, Hunts., the Isle of Ely and the Soke of Peterborough would be at Peterborough and so cause Cambs villages to become forgotten backwater outposts, was expressed by the Chairman of the Parish Councils Association. The Boundary Commission have agreed to amalgamate the four counties and make a big new Fen county, to take Cambridge out of it and make it a new kind of county borough. "Histon and such like are quite big places at Shire Hall now, but we will have only a small voice at Peterborough", he said

1949 02 25

For the first time since Impington Village College was opened in 1929, a Gilbert and Sullivan opera was performed there. A packed "house" received enthusiastically the Huntingdon Music Makers Club production of "Ruddigore". The orchestra, conducted by Ethel M. Charles, was well up to the general standard. Arthur Tattersall was the producer

1949 03 30

A Histon couple have gone into the clean-sweeping business. They bought the suction sweeper for their own chimneys but were kept so busy by friends, that in the end they bought a pale blue van and went into business together. A suction sweeper stands alongside the fire place; a large plate is put over it, and an ordinary sweep's brush manipulated through a canvas-covered opening in the plate. Not a single speck of soot is distributed in the room - it is all sucked into a container as it falls. The job takes about three-quarters of an hour on a normal chimney, and costs 7s.6d.

1949 06 08

An 89-year old man from Lt Paxton who made cricket bats for Dr W.G. Grace and Ranjitsinhji has work on view at the county show. He is still making bats from willows he grows himself. Another man, Mr C. Ison of Histon, wheelwright and carpenter, describes himself as "a rough old hand" but can carve bowls and picture frames with all the fine skill that comes to him through the generations of his ancestry who have done similar work in Fowlmere, the village of his birth.

1949 07 29

Members of the public received a bouquet from Chesterton R.D.C. when they were thanked for the way they had helped in the paper salvage drive, which has now ceased. They are now asked to burn their own waste paper to save the time and labour of it being collected. A fire occurred in the Nissen hut used for the bailing and storage of waste paper at the Histon tip. It was gutted together with eight tons of paper directly due to the council's inability to find a market for it

1949 09 28

Cambridge men and women were featured in a new series broadcast in the BBC Women's Hour programme. A few weeks ago a mobile recording unit visited Messrs Chivers Factory at Histon. Among those selected to describe their jobs was Miss Ruth Blows, who has been with Chivers for over 30 years. She is employed as a "tapper" – she tests the glass jam jars to make sure they are air-tight. The name of the firm was not mentioned of course, because the BBC does not advertise.

1949 10 10

Six trade union veterans with unbroken membership of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers were honoured at a social held in the Norfolk Street Labour Hall, Cambridge. Mr J. Docwra of Barton and Mr W. Northfield of Ross st received gold badges. They have been members of the union for 60 years. Others with 50 years membership were Mr S. Pope of Sturton St, Mr H. Hibbett of Histon, Mr T. Runham of Catharine st & Mr W. E. Wilson of Newmarket

1950 04 01

17-years-old Joy Carter of Newmarket Road, Cambridge was by popular vote last night chosen as Miss Cambridgeshire, 1950. She was one of four entrants who reached the finals of this fifth annual contest held at the Rex Ballroom. The others were Angela Barker of Gt Shelford, Jean Hickman of Histon and Dorothy Sampson of Ramsden Square, Cambridge.

1950 11 18

In two years, working mostly during the summer months, the score or so members of the Histon and Impington Amateur Dramatic Society have built themselves a most attractive little theatre out of a former American army hut in the grounds of Impington village college. In 1948 the hut was bought as a scenery store. It was then thought it would make a good rehearsal room and from that came the idea of transforming it into a theatre.

1950 12 14

A total of 2,325 years loyal service was rewarded by Messrs Chivers & Sons Ltd, Histon when at a gathering which is now an annual event, three employees received gold watches for 50 years service each and 87 others were due receive clocks for 25 years each. The firm has always been proud of the loyalty of their staff.

1951 09 13

Eighty-two acres of land bordering Thornton Road, at present comprising part of the parish of Impington, may soon become annexed to Girton. During the war by a "gentleman's agreement" the land had been administered by Girton Parish Council in connection with Civil

Defence administration and organisation. Local residents had frequently attended Girton Parish Council meetings but had been banned from voting. The transfer of the land would change that. Impington Parish Council has no objections

1951 11 07

Minutes and correspondence of the Histon and Impington Invasion Committee 1940-1945 are now among documents in the Cambridgeshire county archives. Also deposited are the minutes of the Lord Lieutenant's Central Emergency Committee 1914-1918. The archivist, Capt Bales says: "I feel sure there are many such documents in different villages and I fear the results of a fresh salvage drive". He asks for increased storage accommodation as the Muniment Room is very crowded and the documents are scattered in various rooms of the Shire Hall and Law Courts.

1952 02 04

Employees of Messrs Chivers & Sons saw themselves on the screen – in colour – at the Arts Theatre. "The Chivers Story" tells of the work done at Histon and the film is now being shown to grocers all over the country. Principally it is concerned with jam making but the pure-bred hens and pedigree pigs, horses and cattle are not forgotten. Glimpses are given of other aspects of the Chivers organisation – the welfare side and the engineering department – and shots of a secret machine for 'de-stalking' black currants are included.

1952 04 24

Cambridgeshire National Farmers Union heard with satisfaction that the Railway Executive had agreed to operate the 5.27 p.m. Histon to Kettering goods rated soft fruit train this season. It was particularly in the interest of local strawberry growers to keep this train in operation but if it is not fully used it will not be possible to provide a similar service next year.

1952 05 24

The village of Impington has achieved a long awaited ambition in that it now has a vicarage. It had been discussed as long ago as 1666 but plans were made for the present building in 1937. There was little progress during the war but in 1946 the site was bought and since then the vicarage has been built. A chain of pennies was organised to clear the debt and the last two coins were handed over to the vicar by two old inhabitants – Mr R.C. Unwin who has been verger for 18 years and Mrs C. Peck who came to Impington as a young girl.

1952 10 02

Cambridgeshire Education Committee has approved a proposal to provide Grammar School education at two village colleges – Sawston and Impington. If agreed the work of building grammar school wings may begin next April. At the end of the five-year scheme there will be 300 grammar school places. They had been looking forward to the establishment of a country grammar school with a useful house that could have been adapted. Melbourn Bury, home of a former Chairman of the Education Committee, had not received Ministry approval

1952 12 23

The first children's Christmas party given by Pye Ltd since the war was held in the Canteen, St Andrew's Road, Cambridge, when more than 450 children of employees thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After tea they were entertained by the antics of Mr Shipp and then watched a marionette show presented by the Frith family of Histon. This is a real family show with son Roger, 13, manipulating the puppets, Mrs Lilian Frith making off-stage sounds and her husband Oliver providing the voices. Then Father Christmas arrived with sacks of presents and the children went home – the younger ones tired but happy

1953 01 28

The chairman of Histon parish council protested against a proposal that boundaries of the adjacent parishes should be altered and 415 acres added to Girton. This was the third time that

Girton had asked for an extension; on the last occasion in 1934 Histon had agreed. Oakington also wanted additional land, previously the site of the isolation hospital; the Cambridge road was their only source of development since the aerodrome had taken 500 acres, the water supply was provided by the village and residents would be able to avail themselves of the new recreation ground.

1953 05 01

Thirteen attractive young ladies paraded before judges at the Rex Ballroom, Cambridge for the title of 'Miss Cambridgeshire'. Dressed in gold net over taffeta with black Miss Eileen Gatwood of Histon was proclaimed the winner. She has already gained the titles of 'Miss Pampisford' and 'Miss Harston'. Second was Mrs Maureen Oliver who was 'Miss Manchester 1952' and third Miss Janet Waller who has been 'Miss Hunstanton'. The winner was presented with a three-guinea cheque and the runners up with boxes of chocolates by the promoter, Mr Billy Pearce.

1953 05 22

Histon's new post office, gleaming in the spring sunshine, was officially opened by the Head Postmaster of Cambridge (Mr D. MacGregor). The substantial brick building, bright and commodious, replaces the wood and corrugated iron structure which residents had visited in the centre of the village for many years. It is not a Government scheme. It is entirely the project of the sub-postmaster, Mr Fred Brown, who runs the Post Office in connection with a general stores.

1953 09 03

Two-and-a-half-tons of freshly-picked Victoria plums were destroyed when a fruit lorry from Chiver's farm at Hazelstubb, Haverhill, came into collision with a coal waggon from the Haverhill depot of Moys Ltd. The impact of the crash, near Castle Camps caused the coal waggon's petrol tank to explode, sending both vehicles up in flames. Both drivers scrambled clear in time to escape being burnt. The plums were being taken to the Histon jam-making factory, having been picked that morning.

1953 09 10

A large congregation gathered at Histon Baptist Church for the induction of the new minister, the Rev David Jackson. The service also marked the reopening of the church after interior renovations which included the redesign of the front of the church and the introduction of some beautiful panelling from Impington Hall. The renovation scheme was first drawn up seven years ago and is now almost completed.

1954 05 08

Histon Football Club celebrated 50 years of football when 200 members attended a dinner at the Dorothy Café together with celebrities such as Sir Stanley Rous, Secretary of the English Football Association, the original secretary, A.T. Rogers and one of the original players, V.A. Peck. The club's history, team spirit and organisation were all praised by speakers who added the right amount of joviality to this historic occasion.

1954 05 22

Sir. Thousands and thousands of pounds have been spent at Histon: we have had a canteen at the Junior School, new houses for Impington College, new Police houses & a sewerage scheme which does not work. More has been spent on the road near Histon station which appears to have narrowed rather than widened it and the road to Cottenham, where no building is allowed, has been beautifully tarmaced. We are very grateful but the paths have potholes and we really need a bridge over the railway at the station for cyclists and pedestrians – a Mere Ratepayer

1954 05 27

Sir: - at Histon there are hoards of men digging out trenches to say nothing of the shoals of men from the Electricity and Gas Boards concerned in this wild cat scheme of wasting the ratepayers money. On top of all these men getting in each others way there are the visitations in highly polished cars, twice daily, of the 'top dogs' just to see that in refilling the trenches they don't bury any of the pick and shovel men. I wouldn't care less what the authorities are doing was it not for the disfigurement of the road and the colossal cost of the scheme which has to be met by yours etc – Poor Ratepayer

1954 10 06

The Minister of Education has refused to allow funding for a new school for Milton, but one new classroom will be built. There will also be building at Babraham, Histon and Cheveley while Harston is growing fast and a pre-fabricated classroom would be constructed. The position at Kennett shows how quickly a development plan was out-dated. The roll at this single-roomed school has risen from 14 to 27 and would continue to increase. Negotiations would start to purchase the premises now held on lease and plans for an extension prepared.

1954 10 22

Imagine a Hydrogen bomb has been dropped on Cambridge. In a five-mile radius from Great Shelford to Histon everything is just rubble. In a 12-mile radius, including Saffron Walden, Newmarket and Huntingdon, there is severe damage and for 20 miles, as far as Bishop's Stortford, there is minor damage. Blast and heat flash from the bomb could also cause severe burns to people exposed in the open and if the bomb exploded on the ground or in water mud thrown up would be very radio-active and would be carried for many, many miles. But if an 'ordinary' atom bomb was dropped the centre of destruction would be only a half-mile radius

1954 11 06

Impington Village College has been open for 15 years; there are now 460 pupils with new buildings including a fine new music room and engineering workshop. A new block of classrooms was being added and there was to be a dining room and kitchen. Soon it would possess the finest buildings of any school in the English countryside. Beautiful buildings were a necessity Henry Morris, the Chief Education Officer, told their Speech Day. Leisure had become one of the great problems of our lives. Passive amusements such as television and football pools were not a good thing. He hoped boys and girls would come back to the college in the evening and do things with their own hands.

1955 01 17

A Cottenham man, H.A. Harvey, is planning to run a 'Poor Man's Tour' to the Continent by luxury coach. A Belgian tour will cost £22 and people could be picked up at Histon. This will save having to make a horrifying journey across London to reach the coach station. But Barton Transport, Eastern Counties and Mr H. Richmond objected. One said that in spite of wide advertising last year they had only received six firm bookings and there was not a great deal of Continental traffic from Cambridge. British Railways say that they would not expect a great demand for excursions in this area.

1955 04 22

Chesterton R.D.C. received a letter from Addenbrooke's to say that cases of diphtheria would no longer be admitted to the hospital. There were outbreaks at Impington and Trumpington, the fourth in the village. The provision of an isolation hospital had been postponed for a long time, with the object of avoiding expense but was now imperative. They could erect one at a cost of about £650 which would meet the needs of the district for a long time to come.

55 04 22b

1955 06 07

A 'hide' at the Old House, Histon is believed to be the nearest 'priest hole' to Cambridge. It was covered over and forgotten for centuries until rediscovered when electric light was installed. A hat the size of a bicycle wheel and with a high crown was discovered but fell to pieces on being touched. The hide was entered from what was probably a chapel under the eaves or from the floor below; it was also possible to get out into the garden where a horse-ring is still to be seen. 55 06 07

1955 08 16

Messrs W.J. Unwin, the Histon seedsmen, have now established an all-time record at the British Gladiolus Society's international show held at Westminster. They took the large gold medal and silver trophy for the best flower exhibit and also won the Daily Mail gold vase together with 20 other prizes. Unwin's are pioneer breeders of the new graceful miniature gladiolus which claimed so much interest at the exhibition. 55 08 16

1956 01 14

For many years the Salvation Army at Histon has laboured under difficult circumstances because of the smallness of their hall. Now a new Citadel is to open in Impington Lane when the key will be turned by Mrs Stanley Chivers. It has been built by Messrs F.L. Unwin at a cost of £5,100 and will seat 200 people. The present hall is to be used as a Young People's Hall. 56 01 14a

1956 04 26

A Central School girl claims to have seen a flying saucer over Milton and Impington. "It came towards me at a very fast rate and disappeared back in the direction it had come. There were little windows all round it", she said. Asked whether it could have been the airborne elephant from Bertram Mills circus straying slightly off course she laughed and said "That is impossible". Nothing would shake her belief that this was a flying saucer. 56 04 26b

1956 08 17

Tucked away in the bustling heart of Histon stands an enchanting medieval house steeped in history, and overrun with spirits. The ghosts of this quaint house include a debonair cavalier, a copper-haired Puritan, a malevolent Roundhead and a solemn but kindly priest. 'We treat them like old friends', says the lady of the house. 56 08 17 & a

1956 09 05

Histon ghost stories – letters – 56 09 05a & b

1956 09 22

A fen drainage windmill has been re-erected in Wicken fen. Norman's Mill stood in Adventurer's Fen, a mile to the south, and was operating until the early 1930's after which it fell into disuse and suffered considerable interference by people visiting the fen. The restoration was undertaken by C.J. Ison of Histon. They discovered the right way to go to work by trial and error, guided by what they found when they dismantled the old structure. Little more than the iron parts of the wheelers and gears remain from the original mill 56 09 22a & b

1957 06 07

The Minister has approved plans to reduce the rate of growth of Cambridge but increase the development of nearby villages like Histon, Girton, Milton and Coton. However no deliberate expansion will take place at Teversham, Hauxton, Madingley or Grantchester. Villages can only preserve their identity and character if they remain physically separate from each other so a Green Belt will be introduced. 57 06 07a

1957 07 15

Histon has had a fortnightly refuse collection since the war, but other villages had one every week. In some parishes the workmen collect refuse bins from the doors, in Histon they had to be placed in the road. Every village should have the same service. But at Haslingfield the refuse was collected every four or five weeks. A resolution calling for a fortnightly collection throughout the district was carried unanimously. 57 07 15

1957 09 19

The new self-service food store opened by the Co-op at Histon is their second such store within a year – the first opened at Histon Road last December. It has been created from the former grocery and butchery branch premises. The lay-out is extremely attractive with contemporary colourings, cream tenazzo floor tiles and a practically all-glass frontage. It has two check-outs and a cash office. 57 09 19a

1958 01 16

William Coles of Cottenham, the oldest active lay preacher in Cambridge Methodist Circuit, has celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He began preaching 68 years ago in the Cottenham Circuit and has continued every since. During the past year he has preached in Histon and Willingham chapels as well as the Salvation Army hall in Cottenham. He has also presided at Rampton Mission Hall 58 01 16

1958 05 01

Renaming of Histon streets – Kingsway – 58 05 01b

1958 08 04

I journeyed to Cottenham recently and was mentally steeling myself for that endless succession of right-angled bends through Histon village. Instead I found a well aligned bypass starting a short distance on the Cottenham side of the 'Chivers' railway crossing and missing Histon village completely. Whoever built this wonderful stretch of road must have kept it very quiet for not even the gas, water and electricity people have dug little holes in its virgin surface. It will make the task of those hauling guided missiles into the secret depths of the Fens much easier! Until now those Histon bends must have looked formidable 58 08 04

1958 10 01

Ten years ago Eastern Electricity's Fens sub-area had been faced with a back-log of work. Some 171 villages and about 4,000 farms had been without a mains supply – but now all had been connected. They had enlarged sub-stations at Bassingbourn, Histon, Chatteris and March and erected new overhead power lines. There was an increasing interest in floor warming equipment which was very much a 'coming thing' and improvements had been made in meter reading. 58 10 01

1959 05 27

British Railways announce that passenger train services between St Ives and Kettering and the freight train services from Buckden and Grafham stations will be withdrawn on June 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition trains running between Cambridge and St Ives on weekdays which at present serve Kettering will also be withdrawn. Arrangements will be made to augment the service to St Ives by the 10.17 am Cambridge to Peterborough train calling at Histon, Oakington, Longstanton and Swavesey stations and an additional train leaving for St Ives at 5.15pm calling at all stations 59 05 27a

1959 06 06

Chivers and Sons is to amalgamate with Schweppes and hope to install a mineral water plant at the main Histon factory to provide alternative employment during that part of the year when employees are not fully engaged with fruit processing. The business will continue to be carried on under the existing name and management 59 06 06



1959 09 04

Ten council houses at New Road Impington have been modernised. They were built in 1920 and most of the original tenants are still living there. Originally the living room was intended as a kitchen with a small scullery adjoining. There was a washroom, in which there was a bath, while the earth closet and coal house were approachable from outside. Now they have a proper bathroom, with a gas hot water system in place of the copper, and there is electricity in every room. The walls have been painted silver grey and doors are peacock blue 59 09 04

1959 09 15

One of the things that the villagers of Histon are really proud of is their village green. But each summer, just when it is looking its best, Council workmen come along to dredge thick black mud from the bottom of the stream. It isn't just appearances that residents worry about – mud, weeds and rubbish drying in the sun – but the smell, which is particularly strong in the evenings. The children go down there to catch tadpoles and get themselves in a shocking mess by walking across the mud to get to the water, complained one woman 59 09 15a

***The Cambridgeshire Collection has taken newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1960 04 08

Histon haunted house home of Dr. A. Dale 60 04 08a

1960 04 28

Costs of building the new Hills Road railway bridge have increased by £20,000 because unusually difficult ground conditions mean it needs deeper and more substantial foundations. But the County Council hopes to construct a bridge over the level crossing on the Cambridge Road at Histon. It will mean the demolition of five houses and affect the gardens of 17 other properties as well as the complete rebuilding of the Histon nursery school. 60 04 28

1960 07 15

There are 18 bungalows for elderly people at St Audrey's Close, Histon each with a small garden. One of the oldest residents, Mrs B.E. Topper, who is well into her eighties, grows rows of vegetables and beds of flowers. Home helps visit regularly and some people have their lunches through the WVS meals-on-wheels service. All enjoy living there and feel secure knowing they have their independent but that the warden calls each day. Chesterton RDC was the first to launch this method of housing locally and their lead has been followed by other councils 60 07 15

1960 11 30

'Telex' is the system businesses use for sending printed messages to one another – a kind of private telegraph service by which the operating of a typewriter keyboard at one end produces a typed impression on a roll of paper at the other. It is used by 40 local subscribers including Cambridge police, Pye, Fisons, Corrugated Cases at Histon, Herbert Robinson and the American Air Force. Now it has been converted to automatic working so by a simple dialling action followed by some work on the keyboard a business in Cambridge can send a typed message to an associate in Glasgow 60 11 30

1961 08 17

Dr D.A. Dale of Histon, an authority on aristocratic English cars, has added a 'German box of tricks' to his collection. It is the 1939 Maybach which Dr Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, used during his state visit. This is garaged beside a 1930s Bentley, a Rolls Royce and a Siddeley Special that he uses for shopping expeditions in Cambridge. He became interested in such vehicles 20 years ago and says he has had so many that he can hardly remember them all. 61 08 17a

1961 08 24

Histon station has completed a hat-trick of wins in the garden section of the annual competition for best-kept station. They are one of four in the region to gain the top award of £10 which will go towards the cost of seeds and plants for next year. The new stationmaster, A.S.G. Harris, has taken a keen interest in the competition with strong support from his three porters who have done the bulk of the work. Longstanton, Oakington and St Ives stations also won recognition. 61 08 24b

1961 09 08

Oakington was unsuitable for major residential development, the County Development Control Officer told an inquiry. It had mains electricity, gas and water but a sewage system was not expected for three or four years and the school was already overcrowded. There is a distinct danger of development outstripping the services available. Cottenham, Girton, Histon and Milton were more suitable. But there were swarms of builders after any land for which planning permission had been granted. The developer said there was a heavy demand for houses in the £2,000 range and he would install an estate sewage disposal system 61 09 08a

1961 09 19

Thirteen people travelling on a United Counties double-decker bus had remarkable escapes when it ploughed through a ditch and crashed into a copse after being in collision with two heavy lorries at the junction of the Bourn Airfield turn on the main Cambridge-Bedford road. A large section of the off-side of the bus was pushed in and the conductor thrown to the floor and covered in a pile of seats. One of the lorries, owned by Chivers of Histon, was completely swung round and overturned in the centre of the road. 61 09 19

1961 12 12

Henry Morris, the creator of village colleges, was 'the most remarkable and creative mind in English education during his generation'. He had the vision to commission Gropius and Fry to design Impington Village College and under his direction Cambridgeshire achieved distinction in raising the national standard of design in schools. Morris attempted to extend his ideas to other zones, but was opposed by vested interests. Instead he was commissioned by President Roosevelt to develop rural community centres in the USA. 61 12 12b & 13a

1962 01 17

Two new schools may be built, councillors decided. There should be a nursery school at Histon to replace the existing one which is to be demolished to make way for a new bridge over the railway level crossing. The new school at Childerley Gate will be a two-class primary which will replace the present temporary building. The original was knocked down for Air Ministry purposes during the war 62 01 17

1962 05 28

Histon church burial yard consecrated 62 05 28b

1962 09 26

The new register of buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest' features houses, pubs and even mile stones. The Ministry thinks most of the parish churches are worth maintaining as are some village halls and windmills. The list includes a dovecote in Church Street, Comberton, The Three Tuns pub at Fen Drayton – once the Old Guildhall, Chiver's windmill at Impington, the obelisk at St Margaret's Mount, Harston and a statue in the grounds of Fulbourn Manor 62 09 26a

1964 04 28

Narrow Lane Histon, complaints – 64 04 28a

1964 08 03

Moses Carter, giant of Histon – 64 08 03

1964 09 05

Cambridge Railway station to build park for 200 cars, coal tower to be demolished; Histon station prepare for garden competition – 64 09 05

1965 04 01

Bomb disposal officer injured tackling 22 Molotov cocktails at Villa Rd, Histon – 65 04 01c

1971 02 19

Cambridge Free Radio off air after being hunted down by Post Office engineers – had been broadcasting over a 25-mile radius from Histon – 71 02 19a

1972 04 15

Mr Alexander Dale, of The Old House, Histon, the noted collector of macabre historical relics, has died. He was 63. His "black museum" contained the last gallows ever used in public execution at Cambridge, assorted bloodstained wrist crushers and torture instruments from the Bastille. Most of the exhibits were sold at public auctions in Cambridge during 1970 when Dr Dale wanted the space at his home which the museum was occupying

1972 08 12

Castles in the air are all very well but when it came to haystacks in the sky villagers at Histon began to think they were really dreaming. Airborne straw rained down on the village yesterday and clumps of it were scattered over roads and in the gardens of puzzled residents. Seven year old Carmen Moore, who watched the whole event said; "I thought it was very funny seeing haystacks in the sky". The mystery of the falling straw was solved by the R.A.F. Oakington meteorological office. A spokesman said "This comes from burning fields of stubble. The heat from the ground can lift loose straw up to 10,000 feet and it can travel as much as 30 miles before it falls down again"

1972 10 03

Modern-style living has caught up with Histon. A few years ago the parish council could not find tenants for their allotments. Now people are living in houses dubbed as "rabbit-hutches" the council have more applications than allotments. In the past about 18 allotments in Spring Close and The Dole have given way to housing developments. Mr A.J. Gayle, who is Chairman of Chesterton Rural Council told members that before the allotments were swallowed up the parish council could not find tenants for them. He went on: "Now they are building rabbit hutches and they all want gardens"

1974 09 07

Budge Brothers the Basildon-based builders who were developing a 145 house estate at Sawston, have gone into liquidation. The Sawston site and another 18 acres of land at Homefields, Histon, could provide more than 400 badly-needed new council homes. But the company's liquidation means that all their assets, including these two sites, are frozen. Houses on the Sawston site are well underway but building work stopped as long ago as February

1974 09 10

Anglian Water Authority have asked South Cambs district council to refuse permission for any new development and severely restrict building in a further 19 because of the overloading of the sewage treatment works. Milton, whose drains lead into the Cambridge works has suffered from a development embargo for the last four years. It is now joined by Shelford, Girton, Histon and Fen Ditton where a complete ban on development is requested. At Over, Gamlingay and Bassingbourn permission will only be given to one-building application. All

of these sewage works have been badly overloaded for some time but the cuts in public spending have prevented AWA from going ahead with extension schemes

1975 02 20

Four men ran a pirate commercial radio station from remote spots in the Cambridgeshire countryside, magistrates were told. They were caught in a field near Histon as they had just closed down a two-hour broadcasting session of Anglia Free Commercial Radio. They had previously put out two-hour broadcasts on Sundays from various spots in Cambridgeshire, and the programmes were heard in places as widespread as Exning, Waterbeach and Fenstanton. The magistrates ordered the transmitter to be forfeited. The men were fined between £50 and £70 each

1975 05 01

The Campaign for Real Ale has bought a disused pub, the Salisbury Hotel in Cambridge for £22,000 – with the house next door thrown in. Secured at an auction it is their fourth public house acquisition in the country. The auctioneer described the price as very poor for such a commodious property. The licence was never rescinded or transferred and so is available for an application to the city licensing magistrates for renewal. At the same auction the King William IV pub at Histon was taken off the market at £17,500

1975 08 18

Milton children cycling or walking to Impington Village College will have to negotiate heavy traffic on the new bypass for the village before they can reach their school. This follows the decision by the Environment Secretary not to build a special bridge or underpass where the bypass will cross Butt Lane. He feels that with improved visibility there would be less danger than at present. Vice Chairman of the Parish Council said the council had argued strongly in favour of such a crossing & it was a 'sad decision'

1975 11 03

A £50,000 re-investment programme that has begun at the Cadbury Schweppes factory at Histon will make it the biggest jam factory in Europe, increasing capacity for jam production by 40%. When the programme is complete the front part of the Histon factory site will be almost entirely devoted to the production of jellies and the back part to production of Chivers, Hartleys, Moorhouse and Rose's jams and marmalades. A total of 1,300 work at the factory, 1,000 of them full-time

1975 11 07

A £½ -million win on the Pools has helped two brothers on the way to success, so the bar of their new restaurant at Histon will be decorated with photographs of big pools winners to remind them of their good fortune. The old Green Hill pub, which has been the least attractive feature of the area, has now been transformed into a tastefully decorated establishment which will cater for lovers of good food and drink. It has a number of whiskeys – sold at low prices, and motorists will appreciate the large car park at the rear

1976 01 03

A huge clearing up operation was organised by emergency services as the hurricane winds died down. The trail of wreckage included tiles ripped off hundreds of homes, fences blown down, flattened greenhouses and television masts torn off chimneys. At Milton an ancient elm tree which only months ago was declared safe by tree experts was partly blown down. At Histon the side of a house was blown out on a new estate and some villages between Harston and Bassingbourn were still blacked out today after the hurricane blew down power cables.

1977 02 10

Planners took a long hard look around Cambridge to see where development could best be accommodated. They soon dismissed Histon or Girton because they have relatively limited

potential for longer-term growth. At Milton there is considerable opportunity for expansion within the new road framework. Both Bar Hill and Waterbeach possess characteristics suitable for growth, but Cottenham is less accessible to Cambridge. Growth of up to 4,000 might be contemplated in the Teversham-Fulbourn area and the same at Bottisham. To the south it would be possible to develop the Clay Farm area of Trumpington and the Shelfords but Sawston seems to have the greatest development potential

1978 07 07

Mr Bob Webster who has run the general stores at Station Road, Impington for 21 years has announced his retirement. The shop used to be a baker's, then a grocer's before he bought it & since then it has tripled in size. "I will miss everyone, my customers have been very loyal", he said. The new owner is Mr Graham Vials.

1977 07 11

A woman celebrated 50 years as a typist with the University Typewriting Office Ltd in Cambridge. Miss Dulcie Smith from Histon joined the firm when staff were enjoying new found freedom. "We were never allowed to come to the office unless we were properly dressed with hats and gloves and just before that the staff were never allowed to go into colleges unless they were chaperoned", she said. She has typed thousands of letters, accounts, theses and reports for dons and students and had to master the art of typing in a number of languages without having any knowledge of them.

1978 08 03

Ray Malmstrom, has just retired after teaching at Impington Village College for 32 years. He started as an assistant teacher with responsibility for the arts and within a fortnight had started a model aeroplane club, which is still going strong. He taught art and must have coached about 4,000 pupils, many of whom have gone on to art schools and training colleges and become teachers or have set up on their own as graphic designers.

1978 09 20

They laugh a lot, paint exquisite pictures, write books, keep a menagerie in the back garden and in between times look after the health and welfare of half of Histon. They are doctors, Bob and Paddy Dwyer-Joyce, family doctors with the emphasis on family. In the surgery is a big sweet jar and soon it will be empty because they are both retiring from the NHS after 42 years. At the end of the month there will be a few private patients, that will be all. And the unknown numbers who will call anyway, and never be turned away

1978 10 04

Milton parents and parish councillors are keeping an eagle eye on pupils crossing the two-mile Milton bypass which opened this week. Police say there had no problems with schoolchildren crossing the busy road between Impington Village College and Milton. But all are concerned at the speed of traffic on the new road which is expected to intensify when the northern bypass opens just before Christmas. The Minister of Transport has refused to concede the need for a footbridge, pointing out that this could cost about £35,000.

1978 12 15

The East Anglian Railway Development Society urges the restoration of passenger trains on the Cambridge to St Ives line. Large domestic and industrial developments have taken place along the route and the new housing on the Arbury Road Estate would make for increased usage at Histon and even warrant a new halt in the Kings Hedges area. A Parkway station should be built to serve the Sawston area and Meldreth become the boarding point for Kings Cross trains.

1979 01 23

The railway line between Swavesey and Cambridge will be used for a passenger service on March 31<sup>st</sup> for the first time since its closure in 1971. Trains will call at Longstanton, Oakington and Histon – at least for one day. A special train is being organised by the Railway Development Society in conjunction with British Rail. It will leave Swavesey at 1pm and arrive at Cambridge an hour later, returning at 5.30 pm. The fare for adults will be about £1, children 75p and cycles free.

1979 03 15

Cambridge councillors may scrap their plans for building a camping and touring caravan site at Impington. Because there is so much commercial competition they are being recommended to establish a small camp nearer the city centre for campers arriving without their own transport and carrying their packs on their backs, some of whom currently camp on the commons or along the Backs. Such a site need not be widely publicised but if known to the police, park custodians and the tourist office it would prevent possible nuisance or annoyance elsewhere

1979 04 02

There isn't much left of Swavesey station. The station house and offices are all gone, leaving just a few broken seats and a creeper-covered shelter to accommodate the traveller. The railway line which goes through to St Ives was shut to passengers on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1970. Now the only trains to use it carry freight and aggregates from Fen Drayton, and oranges to Chivers' factory at Histon. But on Saturday a 'special' was chartered from British Rail by the Cambridge Rail Action Group which wants to see passenger services restored. Every single ticket was sold within five days and nobody complained when the train was a little late arriving and Swavesey Brownies were busy brewing up coffee for any day-trippers

1980 03 24

Rail transport enthusiasts who want the Cambridge to St Ives branch line re-opened have hired a 10-coach Inter-City train. It will set off from Swavesey station and call at Longstanton, Oakington and Histon before running non-stop to Liverpool Street. The branch line closed to passengers in October 1970 but the track has been kept open by block freight trains carrying Spanish oranges and pulp to Cadburys at Histon and bringing out sand from Amey Roadstone. But the track has recently been lifted beyond Fen Drayton and the station site at St Ives has been obliterated by the new bypass. 80 03 24

1980 05 14

Villagers in Histon have rallied round to save part of their heritage. Chivers-Hartley turned off their factory hooter after complaints about noise but this sparked a storm of protest from villagers who claimed it has acted as an alarm clock for more than 100 years apart from the last war when it was used as an air-raid siren. It sounds for 20 seconds, four times a day. Now after a petition in protest and a flood of letters the hooter has been re-instated 80 05 14a

1980 09 18

Jack the jackdaw has been amusing and confusing the villagers of Histon. The tame bird which has set up home on the green has befriended children at the nearby village school and is fast becoming a tourist attraction. But his constant cries of 'Jack' and 'Come on!' have kept one resident awake and been mistaken by another for the cries of cheeky children. The local policeman has been informed but no one has turned up to claim the bird 80 09 18a

1980 09 22

A family has stepped forward to claim Jack the jackdaw who has been amusing the villagers at Histon with his cheeky repartee. "There was no mistaking that the bird was theirs", said Richard Spittle who first noticed Jack perched on a branch outside his house. "The little girl said something completely gobbledegook and the bird repeated it immediately. He came

straight away as soon as she called him". They were very relieved to have him back. After he was featured in the News at least four other families turned up claiming to have lost a pet jackdaw. 80 09 22a

1980 11 04

Histon parish council opposed plans for an 18-hole pitch and putt golf course on land off Gunn's Lane approached by a bridleway. They fear it would not be used by village youngsters but attract outside golfers. But they did back a scheme for a day centre for the elderly to be run in the church hall and supported Lumacard, a bright-red card which elderly people can place in their windows to summon help in an emergency 80 11 04

1981 07 30

The Royal Wedding had millions glued to their television sets but in side streets and back gardens revellers found a variety of ways to toast Charles and Diana throughout the rest of the day. In De Freville Avenue residents sealed off two streets and several hundred tucked in to tea, at Impington children of Station Road held their 'street party' indoors – the village hall had been booked in case of bad weather. Tea at Home Close old people's home at Fulbourn was a very English affair with handbell ringers and croquet on the lawn. 81 07 30b

1981 10 02

The veteran Histon seedsman, Mr Charles Unwin has completed 70 years in the business started by his father at the turn of the century. He joined the firm at the age of 14 and made his reputation breeding sweet peas as well as being a prolific writer and lecturer. Now a booklet has been issued which shows him on the cover, pipe firmly clenched in his teeth in a pose familiar to his friends. But the pipe did not endear itself to local firemen who were several times called out on false alarms when regulations on fire safety were introduced ten years ago 81 10 02c

1981 11 13

The storm over a £5 million development plan for the Chivers jam factory at Histon came to a head when a packed meeting was warned it could be moved elsewhere. They wanted to sell off land at the front of the factory for housing and light industry to help pay for new developments to secure about 700 jobs. In the end the scheme got the thumbs up from the 500 people, mostly villagers and employees, who crowded into the factory canteen. 81 11 13b

1982 04 26

Quenby Price started in 1835 from premises at Kempton, then just before the last war a mill was purchased at Kimbolton which became the site where cereal seed was produced. It launched its Cambridgeshire operation in 1968 at Station Yard, Histon and throughout the 1970s business expanded in the trading of agrochemicals, feedstuffs, fertilisers, seed corn and the buying and selling of grain and oilseed rape. Now a new store enables them to store fungicides and weedkillers from major manufacturers, providing a complete service for arable farmers. 82 04 26a & b

1983 01 06

Scouts and Guides at Histon and Impington have a new headquarters in the grounds of Impington Hall thanks to a hard-working band of volunteers. In just three days they managed to erect their new building. A former storage hut at Addenbrooke's Hospital, it had been dismantled and stored until the go-ahead was given for its erection. Scout leader Ian Ross and foreman Peter Collins celebrated with a beer 83 01 06

1983 02 07

Impington windmill appeal – 83 02 07

1983 05 03

It was the Depression of 1933 which led to Sid Bishop setting up a cycle repair business with a gross of spokes and a dozen batteries. He bought a cottage in Station Road, Histon where he traded until moving into a purpose built shop next door in 1955. By then bicycles had almost taken over his home. Now the Raleigh agency is the mainstay of his trade which also includes ironmongery, hardware, do-it-yourself materials and house-hold goods 83 05 03

1983 07 04

The new Post House Hotel at Impington has elegance and style yet relies for its distinctive appearance on traditional materials of brick, tile and timber. Visitors are immediately struck by the atmosphere of classical, gracious country living; its style stops just short of opulence. The restaurant welcomes children with its Munch Bunch and Hungry Bear menus featuring baked beans and fish fingers. Yet this rural vista is near the centre of Cambridge. 83 07 04

1983 07 06

The closure of Stockbridge's 113-year-old antique shop in Bridge Street follows closely on that of another shop bearing the same name. C.P. Stockbridge of Histon set up two years ago when the other branch of the family left its prime site on King's Parade. The main reason for closure is that the antique trade is depressed and the new shop never took off. 83 07 06 p5

1983 11 22

There just aren't enough ballroom dances to meet all the demand in Cambridgeshire. Already a resurgence in the dancing of 30 years ago is causing overflows and tea dances are catching on. A dance at the Long Road Sixth Form College attracted 230, too many for dancing, so numbers are now restricted. The local big band, SoundIdea, under Bob Kidman, averages three bookings a fortnight. Now a new one has made its debut: the Umbrella Big Band, a few survivors from the defunct Impington Dance Orchestra. 83 11 22 p13

1983 11 22

Enterprise, individuality and a friendly atmosphere are among the attractive features of shopping at Histon where a good range of stores serves a lively and expanding community. The only snag is the lack of adequate parking space. They include Holmes of Histon which has displays of Wentworth kitchen furniture, the Silver Candle for Casio and Timex watches, Anglia Fireplaces for fenders, fire dogs and coal buckets, and Phillips and Few which has the new Luxor TV finished in teak or rosewood effect with optional remote control hand-set and teletext modules 83 11 22 p15

1984 01 12

Gangs of teenagers are scaring villagers in Histon. They have barricaded people in telephone boxes, destroyed telephone directories, torn down Christmas lights and daubed a wall with paint. Elderly people walking at night have been intimidated. The village policeman says it is worse at the moment because there are no youth clubs. A councillor said if they lost the telephone box it would cause a great deal of inconvenience. But it will have to be removed unless the trouble ends or the youths are dispersed 84 01 12 p8

1984 05 21

A mysterious killer beast has struck again, slaughtering half a dozen chickens at Oakington. Big paw prints found in the chicken run give a fresh boost to claims that a puma is at large in the area. It is the latest in a series of terror attacks on animals: in March a cat was mauled in Histon and rabbits killed when their hutch was ripped open, while at Landbeach a pet duck was carried off by a large animal 84 05 21 p3

1984 06 13

A move to combine the parishes of Histon and Impington has been rejected by the Environment Secretary. Other moves to move Comberton Village College from Thriplow



parish, to move Little Thriplow into Fowlmere and change boundaries between Over/Swavesey have also been turned down. But a small piece of farmland on the Little Abington and Babraham border has been agreed 84 06 13 p18

1984 06 23

Charles Unwin, son of the founder of Unwin's seeds of Histon still goes to work every day – 73 years after he started. "Mr Charles" is 89, as bright as a button and an acknowledged international authority on sweet peas. His role is now more of a consultant but in his years as boss he saw the number of staff increase from three to around 140. He has won hundreds of awards which hang in the canteen but has some vices – he smokes a pipe 84 06 23 p25

1984 06 13

A move to combine the parishes of Histon and Impington has been rejected by the Environment Secretary. Other moves to move Comberton Village College from Thriplow parish, to move Little Thriplow into Fowlmere and change boundaries between Over/Swavesey have also been turned down. But a small piece of farmland on the Little Abington and Babraham border has been agreed 84 06 13 p18

1984 06 14

The works of Cambridge novelist, Dr Alice Dwyer-Joyce, are to be preserved in a special archive set up by Boston University, USA. The recognition reflects the popularity of her novels among US readers. For more than 40 years she and her husband were family doctors in Histon and she drew from her experiences to produce more than 30 books. The archive will also contain her manuscripts, correspondence and personal effects 84 06 14 p16

1984 07 17

Histon parish councillors discussed complaints of 'arrogant, noisy' Italian language school students in the village. But one reminded his colleagues about the behaviour of English football fans abroad. The Language School said they had organised events for their students but these had been thwarted by local lads on BMX bikes who snatched their tennis balls and frightened the young girls. They agreed the number of students in the village was too big but defended their exuberance as their national characteristic 84 07 17

1984 09 28

Girls of Impington Village College are demure school misses by day and dazzling disco princesses by night. The 10 girls make up two teams, Mekanism and Africano, and are heading for Hammersmith Palais for the British National Association of Youth Club's Junior Team Disco championships. They are tutored by physical education and dance teacher Mrs Stephanie Franklin and spend five hours a week perfecting their hip-swivelling, high-kicking routines. 84 09 28

1984 11 21

Dazzling dancers, Mekanism, from Impington Village College have won the junior championships in the National Association of Youth Clubs disco dance championship. Another pupil, Penny Latin, came second in the disco dance design competition with her flame-patterned circular skirt and bare midriff outfit. The PE teacher, Stephanie Franklin took the school's senior dance teams, Rhythmic Revolution and Terpsichorean Rage, to the top of the championship in the last two years 84 11 12 p1

1985 11 04

Dr Robert Dwyer-Joyce was the physician and friend of generations of Histon villagers. He and his wife, Dr Alice Dwyer-Joyce, were family doctors in the village that was their home for the past 42 years. Despite running a busy general practice he found time to paint and write poetry whilst his wife wrote around 30 books. When they retired in 1978 villagers threw a

farewell party in the village hall where they were showered with gifts. The parish council named a street after them in recognition of their service. 85 11 04

1986 07 02

Charles Unwin, founder of Unwin Seeds of Histon has died peacefully aged 91. 'Mr Charles' as he was affectionately known, joined the firm in 1913 and made his reputation breeding sweet peas flowers but was also a prolific writer and lecturer. He was presented with many awards including Medals from the National Sweet Pea and Royal Horticultural Societies and life membership of the Scottish National Sweep Pea, Rose and Carnation Society. 86 07 02a

1986 07 18

The multi-million pound Chivers jam business owes its success in part to a strawberry called Brenda. This was cross-fertilised and developed until the ideal jam strawberry finally emerged, the present day Cambridge Favourite used in Chivers Hartley jams and grown by the hundred tons across Europe. Now Chivers are putting the final touches to a brand new processing factory which will reduce the workforce by five per cent 86 07 18

1986 07 24

The bunting was out and champagne corks popped as Sarah Ferguson and the new Duke of York tied the Royal Knot. Everyone from Brownies to Cambridge office workers were in the mood for a patriotic fling. At Addenbrooke's Hospital there was a festive air as celebrations started in every ward and elsewhere dances and even a mock wedding reception were the order of the day. Flags were strung across Roselea in Impington where one of several street parties went with a regal swing. 86 07 24a & b

1986 12 11

David Reed Homes have gained a reputation for exclusive developments. Five-bedroom residences at their flagship house building scheme at Friends Walk Saffron Walden have sold for £160,000. They have constructed developments at Sawston, Park Lane Histon, Waterbeach and Grange Road Cambridge 86 12 11a

1987 01 10

One of Cambridge's top hotels, the Garden House, is planning a £3 million expansion. Luxury apartments and 16 hotel rooms are proposed as well as a sophisticated leisure complex including swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium and health-food snack bar. Penthouse suites will be built along the River Cam front. The 117-room hotel has to compete with the Post House at Impington and the Moat House at Bar Hill while a new hotel is planned for Downing Street 87 01 10b

1987 01 13

As the big freeze tightened its grip on the region rail commuters were badly hit, schools closed and motorists slid to work as temperatures plunged too low for salt to work on roads. At Histon up to 1,000 homes had their electricity cut off due to underground frost-damaged cables. Cambridge's leading amateur weatherman, Percy Ashman, predicted that the coldest weather for over 50 years is on its way later this week 87 01 13a

1987 02 25

John Brackenbury former naval officer and warden of Impington Village College teacher has been an unlikely politician. But for seven years has thrown himself into the cut and thrust of council work. He was Alliance chairman of the Education Committee during a turbulent time when teachers took strike action. He's represented Histon and Impington since 1981 but has now resigned his seat and is retiring to rural Kent. 87 02 25 & a

1987 03 20

The name of Histon will sound sweet to Margaret Thatcher today. For there the Alliance national bandwagon, which has gained so much momentum, has been thrown into reverse. Last night saw a massive Conservative victory in the County Council by-election for the Histon division when Neville Pritchard won by 426 votes. Coming two days after the Budget it precedes the May council elections which will be a vital factor in the Government's decision whether to call a General Election. The Alliance say the result will make no difference. 87 03 20

1987 03 30

The Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker, has approved the controversial decision to close the Roger Ascham School for the physically handicapped in Cambridge, despite a long-running battle by parents and governors to save it. Pupils will be transferred to special units at the Grove Primary School and Impington Village College as part of the county council policy of integrating handicapped youngsters with able-bodied children. The senior education officer said he was pleased, though upset that the news had been leaked before parents could be told officially. 87 03 30

1987 07 02

Ely and neighbouring villages have seen an astronomical rise in planning applications. In the 1960s there were few areas of growth between Cambridge and Newmarket and developers never got north of Histon or Cottenham. Now prices are increasing by 15% a year and a good plot for housing has increased six-fold to £30,000. Unemployment is low while improved train services have improved accessibility for people travelling to Newmarket and Stansted. 87 07 02b

1987 11 05

Vision Park, the controversial office and high-tech development in Histon, has gained a major first tenant which suggests that the developers were right in thinking Histon was an acceptable business location. Construction of a second phase on the former Chivers site across Station Road started in August. Barclays Bank is taking half of the first completed building to replace their head office above the bank in Bene't Street. The move follows Lloyds Bank's decision to take a large headquarters block at Castle Park, Shire Hall and Midland's move of its management team to Parkers House in Regent Street. 87 11 05b

1987 12 14

Champagne flowed at RAF Molesworth as hundreds of peace protestors celebrated the signing of the historic INF treaty. Campaigners festooned barbed wire fences with balloons and banners to mark the deal which will eventually eliminate the medium-range nuclear weapons deployed at bases used by the Americans. Elsewhere children from Histon and Impington took part in a peace celebration quiz; the youngest winner, Alex Mervart (8) received a £1 voucher from the Rev Tony Barker of Histon Baptist Church 87 12 14c

1989 01 16

Guiliano Maiorana has made his first team debut for Manchester United at Old Trafford, having made the dream move from Histon at the end of November. Under the terms of the contract agreed between the two clubs Histon will collect £50,000 once he has made 20 competitive appearances for the first team. It follows an immediate £30,000 paid when United manager Alex Ferguson plucked the Cambridge-born player, son of Italian parents, from obscurity after seeing him in a trial 89 01 16

1989 02 10

CN-FM 103, Britain's newest commercial station, aims to provide local news, information and music to listeners in a 20 mile radius of Cambridge. It broadcasts from their main studios at Histon using the latest high tech broadcasting equipment with all its music on compact disc

or digital audio tape. It has headhunted some of broadcasting's top presenters such as Dixie Peach, David Hamilton, Nicky Horne and Nino Firetto. They have also signed up 'Bungalow' Bill Wiggins to host a Sunday lunchtime show. 89 02 10a & b

1989 06 23

In 1903 flower grower William Unwin started selling sweet pea seeds by mail order from an outhouse on his Histon farm. Now it has bought the packet seeds side of Fisons and is Britain's biggest seed supplier and each year thousands of gardeners visit their trial beds. Until his death in 1986 Charles Unwin, ('Mr Charles') was probably the world's leading authority on sweet peas. He had been breeding flowers since he was 12 and in 1979 was elected emeritus president of the National Sweet Pea Society, only the second person to hold the post. 89 06 23a

1990 03 24

Hundreds of people swamped the first passenger train between Swavesey and Cambridge for 20 years and at least 200 were left standing. The special service, chartered by the Railway Development Society was overwhelmed. There were 500 waiting at Swavesey, 100 at Longstanton, 200 at Oakington and another 100 at Histon. The train arrived at Cambridge station more than 20 minutes late. 90 03 24b 90 03 26a

1990 03 30

Boys from Impington Village College have created their school's first all-male jazz dance team which won first place in the East Anglian Youth Dance and Mime Showcase at the Junction. Their teacher, Mrs Steph Franklin, has long produced high-flying, high-stepping dance teams and in the 80's girl dancers won top awards 90 03 30b

1990 08 01

University Institute of Management Studies receives £8 gift from Paul Judge, former boss of Premier Brands (Chivers) of Histon 90 08 01a